

Tuition jumps to \$40K

By Ben Salkowe
STAFF WRITER

Middlebury College announced its second six percent increase to the comprehensive fee in as many years, setting the 2004-2005 price tag at \$40,400.

The decision was made Saturday, Feb. 14, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. "The Board weighed all its options and determined that, in order for the College

to meet its commitments and maintain its standard of excellence, this fee was warranted," said President John McCardell.

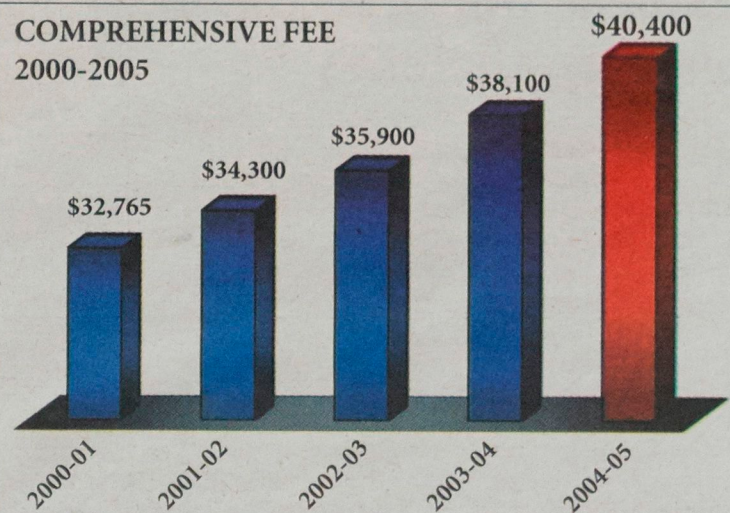
The Board hopes to limit the comprehensive fee to increases of only four percent annually through the next several years. The Student Government Association (SGA) Comprehensive Fee Committee, chaired by Amichai Kilchevsky '04, had made a proposal Friday morning for a 2004-2005 comprehensive

fee of \$39,929, an increase of 4.8 percent. This figure, however, was based on future projections that would have called for constant increases of 4.8 percent through the year 2009.

According to Robert Huth, vice president for administration and treasurer, "The basic difference in approaches to balancing the College's budget is that the SGA

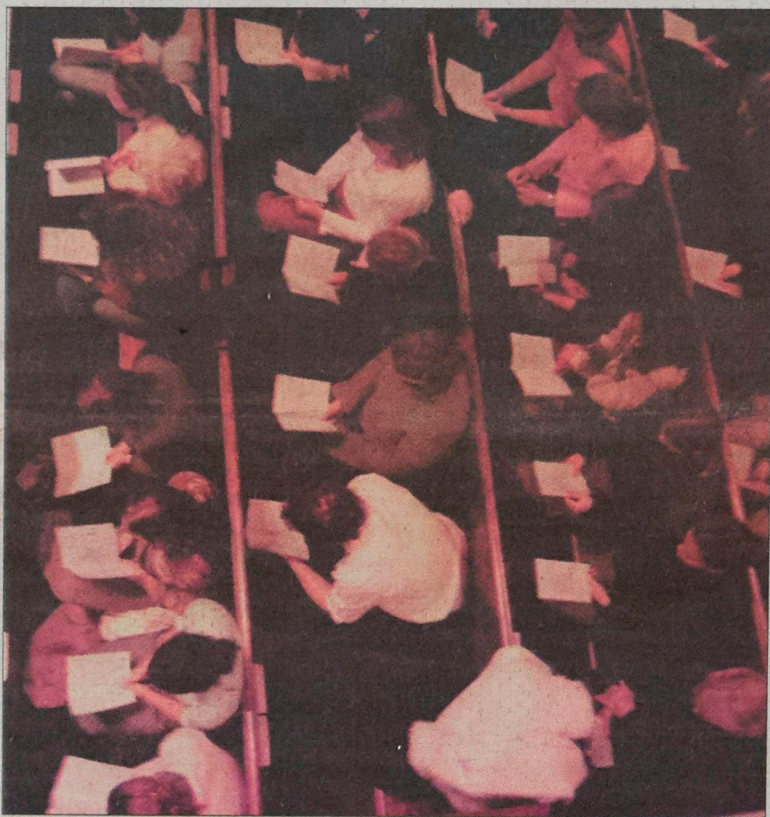
SEE FEE, PAGE 6

COMPREHENSIVE FEE
2000-2005



Remembering Jason Fleishman

College community gathers Monday to pay tribute



Photos by Vlad Lodoaba and Albert Bitici

A capacity crowd honored Jason Fleishman '03.5 Monday evening in Mead Chapel. Laurie Jordan (right) led prayer readings.

By Thomas Drescher
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Members of the Middlebury College community gathered in Mead Chapel on Monday evening for a memorial service to honor and celebrate the life of Jason Fleishman '03.5, a recent graduate who tragically died from a form of meningococcal disease on Feb. 1. A reception at Redfield Proctor Dining Room followed the 90-minute service, which featured remarks by President John McCardell and a performance by the Mischords.

College Chaplain Laurie Jordan began

the evening with a brief introduction and scripture reading. McCardell then spoke about his interaction with Fleishman, calling him a "leader" and an "educator" who had "candor and courage that few possess in similar measure."

McCardell also read a short poem by Emily Dickinson and, reminiscent of his speech from the mid-year graduation ceremony, quoted the LeeAnn Womack song, "I Hope You Dance." "A few lines of this song, I think, summarize [Jason's] life: 'If you get the chance to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance.' Jason always danced," McCardell explained to an

emotional Mead Chapel crowd.

Assistant Professor of Biology David Parfitt, Fleishman's friend and teacher, spoke next, summarizing what he learned from Fleishman as "resiliency, optimism and a smile."

Remarks were then given by Audrey Butler, executive director of the Epilepsy Foundation of Vermont, an organization with which Fleishman was heavily involved. Butler described Fleishman as "bright, brave and absolutely full of life." She also announced that

SEE FLEISHMAN, PAGE 5

ZOO loses Palmer House

By Thomas Drescher
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

At a Feb. 10 meeting, the Inter-House Council (IHC) approved a self-imposed sanction on the social house Zeta Theta Phi (ZOO) that will revoke Palmer House's classification as a building reserved exclusively for ZOO members. The sanction, drafted and proposed by ZOO leaders seeking to revamp a house beset by disciplinary problems and policy failure, will severely restrict ZOO's status as an approved social house.

In recent months, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and IHC Advisor Karen Guttentag explained, ZOO membership has "faced several challenging situations. In some cases," she said, "members made thoughtful and responsible choices...[but] in other cases, members made ill-advised decisions that created new problems for the house."

Only Leigh Taylor '05, acting president of ZOO, was willing to comment on specific incidents. "There was an incident involving keg vandalism during J-Term," Taylor noted, "but the sanction is more the result of ZOO's recognition of a lack of unity within the organization." Taylor also acknowledged that "vehicle vandalism" occurred, but pointed out that ZOO's involvement with this incident has not been established and that the matter "is still under investigation/discussion in the [IHC]."

Acting Dean of Student Affairs Marichal Gentry and IHC member Kris Burfitt '05 declined to comment on the situation.

These recent incidents and ZOO's ongoing occupancy issues prompted a meeting of the IHC and ZOO leadership at the end of J-Term. The IHC asked house leaders to "assess the situation realistically, consider the

SEE ZETA, PAGE 4

Students decry potential J-Term elimination

By Taylor Johnston
STAFF WRITER

The Educational Affairs Committee (EAC) has officially introduced its two proposals to reform J-Term, eliciting charged reactions from many students as the J-Term's judgment day draws nearer — now slated for the March faculty meeting.

The first proposal dictates that first-year students must be in residence for J-Term and enrolled in a J-Term course. A minimum

of two and a maximum of four J-term courses may count toward the graduation requirement of 36 credits. This makes J-Term optional for some students, and gives faculty the opportunity to take the term off if necessary.

Upperclassmen who have acquired enough credits could opt to skip the term, giving them the freedom to take extra time abroad, find an internship or hunt for a job. This could downsize the College's population of January residents, taking some pressure off faculty

HARVARD CONSIDERS ADDING A WINTER TERM.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR FULL STORY.

and lessening the need for visiting professors.

The second proposal would eliminate J-Term entirely and implement two 14-week semesters, which some members of the College community feel might allow for a more in-depth examination of academic material and greater curricular innovation within the semester.

Stephen Clarke '05, director of academic affairs for the Student Government Association (SGA) and chair of the Student Educational Affairs Committee (SEAC), explained the SGA's enthusiasm for the J-Term modification plan over outright elimination. "The faculty says the overall quality of the academic experience would go up with a 14-week semester, but this slight

improvement is not worth the loss of four opportunities to take classes," he said.

In a recent press release, the SEAC enumerated the benefits it perceives in a reformed J-Term. "Juniors studying abroad during the fall semester could remain abroad and travel during January and juniors studying abroad in the spring could start their adventures one month sooner," the document read. "Sophomores and seniors

SEE WINTER, PAGE 5

MIDDBRIEFS

BY AMANDA GOODWIN AND DAN SHEA

College honored for energy efficiency

On Feb. 11, Middlebury College received the Excellence in Energy Efficiency Award, the most prestigious accolade issued annually by the statewide energy efficiency utility, Efficiency Vermont. According to the organization, the award acknowledges an institution that collaborates with Efficiency Vermont to fully integrate energy efficiency into its organizational practices.

"We design buildings to be as energy efficient as possible," said David Ginevan, the College's executive vice president of Facilities Planning, who was present to accept the award last Wednesday with Project Manager Thomas McGinn and Heating Plant Manager Michael Moser. Efficiency Vermont cited the College's continued success in preventing pollution, conserving energy and water, reducing waste and promoting reusable and recycled products.

Over the last four years, Middlebury has increasingly joined forces with Efficiency Vermont to optimize the use of energy in its construction projects, including the new library, the Atwater residences and dining complex, Public Safety's headquarters and most recently the chilled water plant and boiler replacement project. In planning the construction or renovation of these buildings, Middlebury has fulfilled both its academic and environmental objectives by balancing sustainability and budget considerations.

"I am very pleased that Efficiency Vermont thought enough of what we do to honor us with the award. I am very proud, and want to make sure that we continue our efforts in upcoming projects," said Ginevan.

Judicial boards now accepting applications

Applications to the Middlebury College Judicial Boards are now being solicited — most notably in an all-student e-mail sent out Monday. Because students currently serving on a Judicial Board must apply to serve next year, there are 12 open student positions; six each on both the Academic Judicial Board (AJB) and the Community Judicial Board (CJB).

The AJB, which hears cases pertaining to academic dishonesty, is comprised of four students, two student alternate members, two faculty members, one faculty alternate member and a member of the administration. The CJB hears cases involving disciplinary matters, such as fighting. Its composition is similar to that of the AJB. Acting Dean of Student Affairs Marichal Gentry estimates that the AJB and CJB have respectively heard "eight to 10" and "five to six" cases this year. While in past years applications were typically due at a later date in spring semester, this year's deadline is Monday, Feb. 23. Applications must be sent via e-mail to Gentry by 5 p.m.

Although in previous years the new appointees received their training during the week before classes began in September, this year students accepted for a one-year tenure beginning next fall will receive training in the spring.

Dining Services Demands Dishes Back



In an all-campus e-mail, Head of Dining Services Matthew Biette urged students once again to return dishes to the dining halls. The missing dishes accounted for longer lines at lunch during the first week of classes. Now that most of the student body is back on campus for spring term, the problem is exacerbated, as

fewer dishes are available to a greater number of students. Biette noted in his e-mail that too many people are eating meals "on the road" and not returning dishes.

Trustees explore diversity

Middlebury boasts high minority yield

By Caroline Stauffer
News Editor

Alongside a heated discussion over J-Term, the most recent Board of Trustees meeting featured a presentation on the College's progress in fostering diversity by Associate Provost for Institutional Diversity Roman Graf.

Diversity had been the topic of a subcommittee meeting in late fall, and Graf wanted to do the presentation to show "where we were, where we are

People need to want to integrate on their own, not through forced interaction.

— Christian Ford '05,
DMC president

and where we are going" in terms of diversity.

In his presentation, Graf focused on ethnic, religious and political diversity and diverse sexuality, although primary emphasis was placed on ethnic diversity. He compared data from Middlebury to that of the College's peers — the nation's other small, top-ranked liberal arts colleges.

Graf emphasized that diversity is now promoted not as an act of social justice, but for the purpose of education.

In terms of the number of ethnic minority applicants, Middlebury is not at the top of the list. Last fall, only 92 African-Americans applied to the College.

Middlebury does, however, top the list of minority yield — accepted students of color who actually enroll at the College. In fact, Middlebury is seven percent ahead of Wellesley College, the second ranked college in this area. In terms of yield for specific types of minorities, Middlebury ranked first in all categories with the exception of African-Americans, where it ranked second.

Graf is encouraged by the statistic. "Instead of having thousands of students applying, we have a really capable recruiting office that finds people who are qualified and really want to be here," he said.

Graf believes that Middlebury has made immense progress, considering diversity has only been a focal point for the College in recent history. In 1991, President John McCardell declared a goal of having 10 percent of the graduating class be United States students of color. The goal was first achieved in 1996, dipped below the margin once in 1997 and has been maintained since then. In May 2003, 12 percent of the graduating class were U.S. students of color and another 10 percent were international students. Last fall, 25 percent of the entering class were U.S. students of color and 16 percent were international, meaning that 36 percent of the total class is "non-traditional," a statistic Graf called "interesting and healthy."

Now that the College is making headway in increasing diversity on campus, Graf pinpointed a new goal — getting diverse groups on campus to interact.

He had one distinction to make first, however — promoting the image of Middlebury as a common ground for diverse backgrounds. "It is not the goal to have everyone believe the same

thing," he clarified. "We can co-exist with varied opinions."

First, the Office of Institutional Diversity wanted to make sure groups like Distinguished Men of Color (DMC), the African American Alliance (AAA) and the Alianza Latinoamericana y Caribeña (ALC) were strong and visible.

"Middlebury has improved greatly this year. Groups like the DMC have more support and access than before," DMC President Christian Ford '05 said.

To achieve the goal of getting diverse groups on campus to talk to one another, programs such as the "deliberate dialogue model" are being promoted. This program involves looking at an issue and discussing the pros and cons of several different approaches. There are always at least three approaches, ensuring that the discussion does not turn into a debate. There have been four such dialogues so far, the first taking place last May on affirmative action. The dialogues are only now being promoted on a large scale, however, and Graf acknowledges, "they really need to be student initiated."

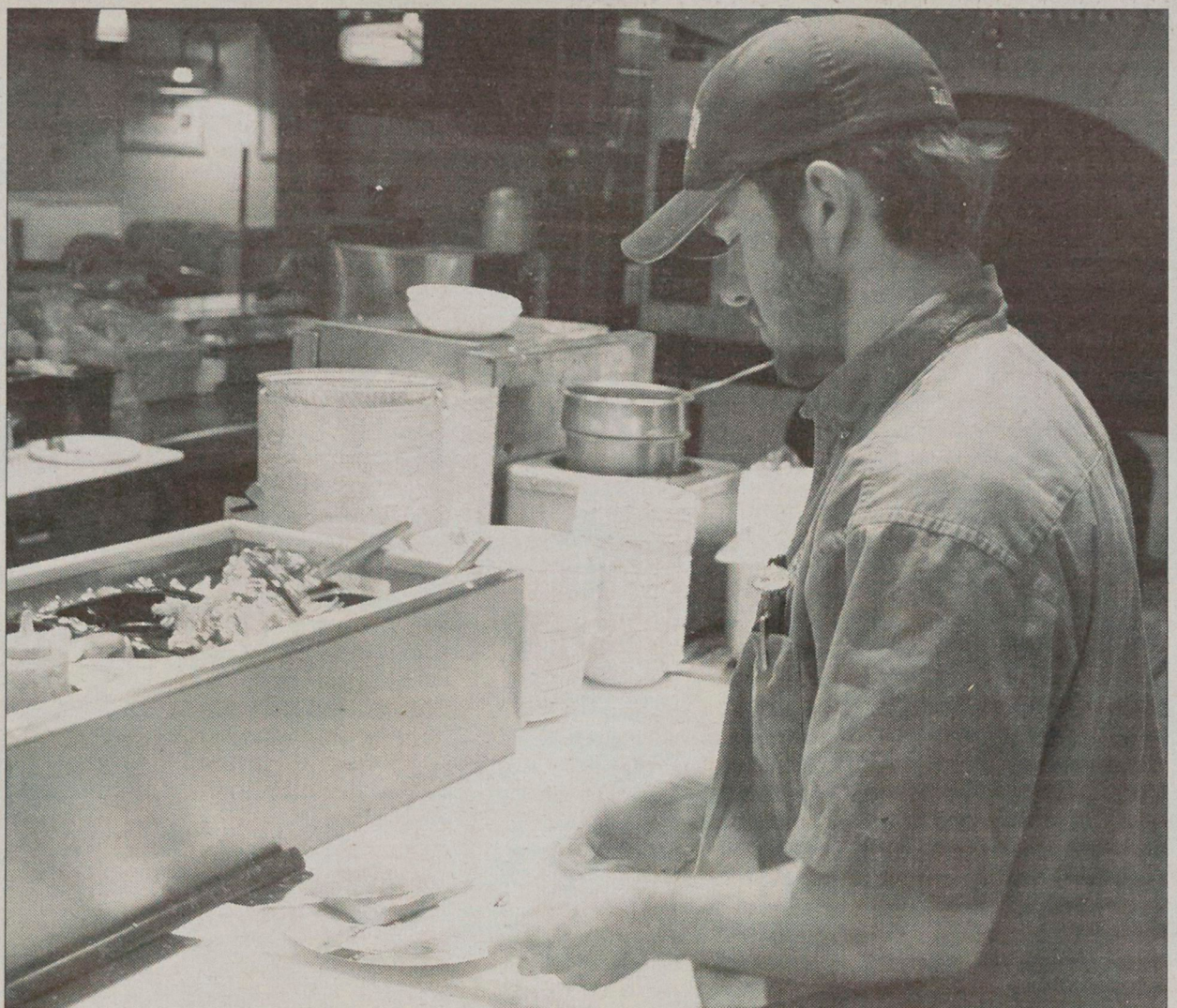
Ford supports the College's efforts to promote diversity for the purposes of education — meeting people from a wide range of cultures, with different ideas. However, "people need to want to integrate on their own, not through forced interaction," he said.

Ford points out that such dialogue often takes place in classes, which foster discussion on issues such as tolerance, hatred and understanding, but these discussions are not often applied outside of the classroom.

"I talk to students who feel weird going to social houses," he said. "Students of color can sometimes feel like a

SEE STATS, PAGE 7

THE LATE SHIFT



Albert Bitici

Toiling away in the kitchen, Grille employee Ryan Jacobs prepares a grilled cheese sandwich for one of many late-night customers.

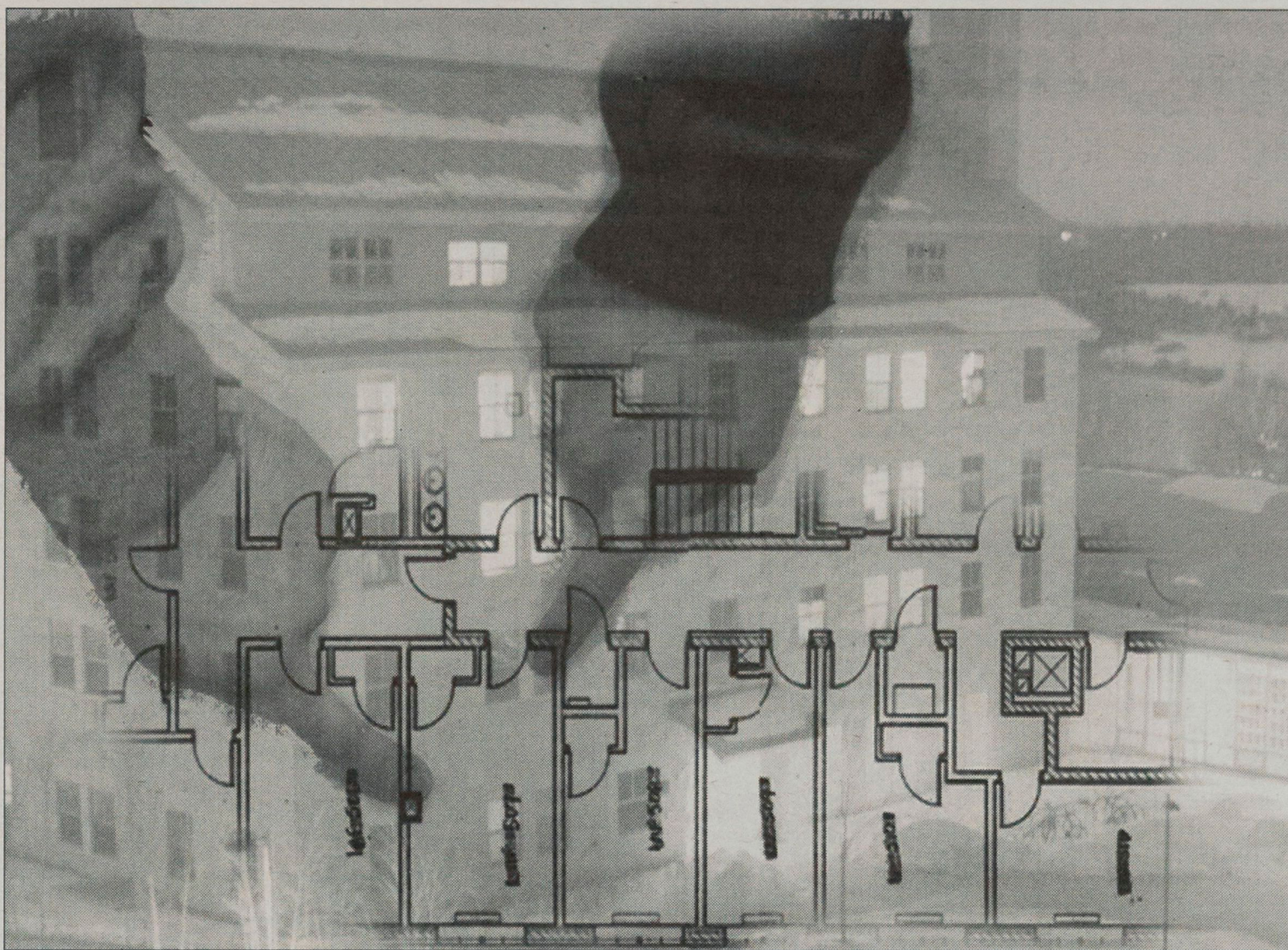


Photo Illustration By Vlad Lodoaba

A recent proposal to limit off-campus housing, due to more available dorm rooms, elicited mixed responses from the student body.

College unveils new housing policy

Fewer seniors permitted to reside off campus next year

By Meredith Kernan
STAFF WRITER

Recent changes in off-campus housing policy are making the option to live in off-campus apartments or houses available to fewer students than ever before. In a student-wide e-mail Monday, Associate Dean of the Faculty Tim Spears announced that the number of seniors living off campus for the 2004-2005 academic year would be limited to 60 — marking a significant decrease from the 115 that are currently living off campus. The message attributed the change in policy to the anticipated completion of the new Atwater dorms and the elimination of residence in the A-Frames this fall, which combined will result in a net increase of 100 beds and allow more seniors to move back on campus.

The administration anticipates that the increased number of seniors on campus will be a positive change for both the College and its relations with the town of Middlebury. According to Spears, “The rising number of off-campus residents has put pressure on the local housing market and reduced the presence of senior leadership on campus. The addition of new senior housing — in Ross and now in Atwater — enables us to reaffirm our commitment to residential liberal arts education while serving as a good neighbor in the town of Middlebury,” he wrote.

Despite the administration’s optimism, students have expressed concerns over the changes in policy. Many landlords require a binding contract to be signed well before the date of off-campus draw, which this year is set for March 17. Since few houses and apartments are still on the market by late March, many students are forced to sign leases

before they are granted permission to live off campus by the College.

According to the Middlebury College Handbook, “Residential life supports and complements the academic programs and educational mission of the College,”

**I’m 22 years old
— I should not
have to live in a
dorm.**

**—Megan
Michelson ’04**

and “gives students substantial opportunities and responsibilities to initiate, organize, and direct the cultural and social life of the College.”

Although there is no doubt that Middlebury’s intense commitment to residential life creates a unique environment of learning and living, the truth is that by senior year, some students cannot bear the thought of spending any more time cooped up in a tiny dorm room, plagued by communal bathrooms and unpredictable heating systems. Looking beyond the “Middlebury bubble,” the thought of an off-campus apartment or house begins to look very appealing.

Megan Michelson ’04 had been talking to a landlord about a house on Cider Mill Road since the beginning of her junior year and looked forward to having more independence during her final year at Middlebury.

“A lot of friends at other schools will live in a dorm for a

year or two, then get apartments,” she said. “I’m 22 years old — I should not have to live in a dorm. I wanted to pay rent and have my own kitchen. It’s preparation for the real world.”

On March 1, 2003, Michelson and three friends signed a lease for the house, but in the lottery several weeks later, the group was not chosen to live off campus. However, she and her friends were not too worried because “it seemed like a flexible situation,” she said. “If you had already signed a lease they would still let you go off campus.”

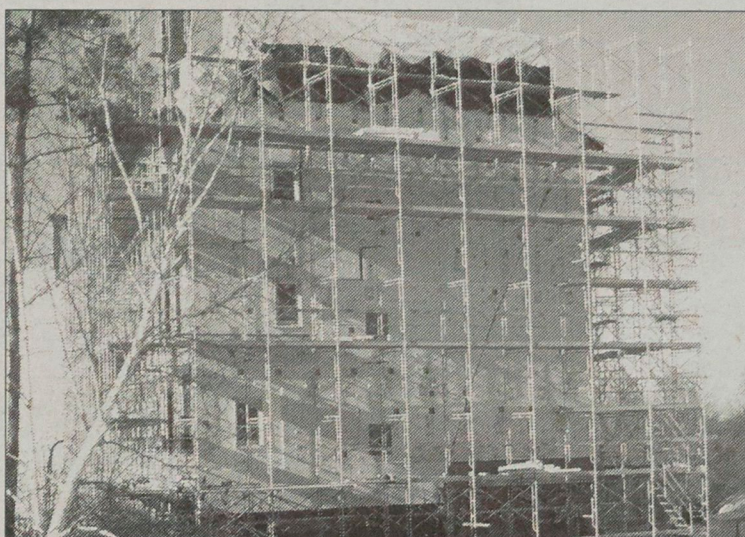
But the administration did not comply with Michelson’s requests, and her group was placed on a waiting list. Just three weeks before school started, they were notified by e-mail that they were still on the wait list, and were presented with two options — they could move off campus and waive the reimbursement typically provided to students living off campus (last year off campus seniors received \$2,440 per semester for room and board), or be the first to choose a College-owned, newly converted

faculty house.

Michelson and her friends were lucky — they now live happily in a small College-owned and maintained house and their landlord returned their security deposit.

But other students in the same position were not so fortunate. Some decided to live on-campus but were forced to pay one or even six months’ rent for houses they did not live in, while others chose to live off campus but were not reimbursed by the school — essentially paying for someone else’s dorm room.

Both the administration’s e-mail and Michelson emphasized the danger in signing leases before the date of off-campus draw. “I think the school has done a good job in trying to accommodate us, but there are changes in the system that could be made to prevent these problems from happening in the future,” Michelson said, “such as having the off-campus draw earlier in the year and strongly reminding students not to sign leases prior to the room draw.”



Albert Bitici

Providing more rooms on campus, the Atwater dorms will open next fall.

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY ALYSSA THURSTON

BEIJING — Being a Middlebury College student, I used to think that I did a fairly good job blending in everywhere I went. Then I came to Beijing. Despite the fact that the Chinese capital is home to thousands of *waiguoren* (foreigners), if you are not Asian in appearance, you still stick out like Keanu Reeves in a well-acted movie. I had taken pains to blend in, donning a thick winter coat and fuzzy hat in the style of the locals to ward off the bitter Beijing winter chill. But to no avail — my eyes are too round, my features too broad. A teacher has told me that, despite being half Chinese, my nose looks too big and American. The Chinese are frank people, shall we say.

When I walk down a neighborhood alleyway in search of cheap eats — which, happily, abound here — the eyes of nearly every passerby and shopkeeper follow me. In some parts of town where foreigners are scarce, I might meet with at least one or two calls of “*laowai!*” — another label for a foreigner — followed by snickers or giggles. I have deduced that perhaps this is the equivalent of saying “Pretty Polly” to a parrot. Being the focus of such constant, daily attention can make one feel extremely self-conscious — even freakish. Even in Beijing, a major international city, I am an oddity, a foreign Chinese-speaking curiosity. It was a strange and unprecedented sensation when I realized this.

Zenmeban? (What can I do?) I could just hide in my room all day and avoid the stares. But, I choose to go out, and when I do, I stare back at the city. Like the round-eyed American striding down the street, the city is a major curiosity all its own. Beijing is a place of contrasts between rapid modernization and traditional Chinese culture. Ultra-modern apartment buildings and skyscrapers cast stainless steel shadows over the old traditional *hutongs* (alleyways) that consist of single-story brick apartments in which some locals still live. A KFC restaurant provides the backdrop for a street vendor selling steaming hot dumplings and freshly made *jian bing* (a spicy fried egg crepe). Outside my dorm window throngs of Nike sneaker-wearing teenage boys shoot hoops from dawn until dusk — and even later. A few steps away from the court, an elderly woman, seemingly oblivious to the noise, faithfully practices Tai Chi every morning.

With such fascinating, dynamic scenery around me, I have largely learned to ignore the stares. It seems to be that when you focus your attention on your surroundings, you stop noticing your surroundings focusing on you. The first time that I realized perhaps I had finally adjusted to my new, radically different environs was when, while standing at the bus stop one day, I caught myself unabashedly staring at a blond-haired *waiguoren* along with all the other Chinese there. When in Rome, as they say.

Harvard explores instituting a Winter Term

By Daniel Phillips
NEWS EDITOR

Last month, the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC) at Middlebury College submitted a proposal to eliminate Winter Term — a component of the College calendar for over 30 years. Meanwhile, the Curricular Review Committee at the premier educational institution of the nation, Harvard College, is considering adopting a winter term.

Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science Murray Dry drafted an opinions submission to the

Murray Dry has advised Harvard in its investigation of winter term pros and cons.

University's daily student publication, *The Harvard Crimson*, on Jan. 26, explaining why he is hopeful to retain Middlebury's 4-1-4 calendar and how Harvard might benefit from a similar "academic change of pace," as he put it.

In his submission, Dry said the best question he as a Middlebury professor could pose to Harvard's Curricular Review Committee was: "How might Harvard encourage its senior faculty to teach undergraduates, so that they come together in small classes for discussion, no matter what time of year?" In the same light, he explained that he supports J-Term at Middlebury because it "provides an opportunity for students and teachers to come together in concentrated common study."

"I tried to suggest to Harvard that having faculty teach undergraduates, and not just provide lectures, was more important than the academic calendar," he explained this week. "In that important respect, we are ahead of Harvard and every other research university," he

said.

Calendar discussion began on campus in Cambridge on Dec. 16, when leaders of Harvard College's Curricular Review Committee briefed the full faculty about a proposal to move fall term exams before winter break. Of all ideas discussed by the task force — including the creation of an Office of Advising and the examination of an open-distribution system — the plan to possibly create a January term created the most controversy.

Professor of Government Lisa M. Martin, co-chair of the Committee on the Overall Academic Experience at Harvard, conceded that in order to make January term a reality, her committee is looking to expand the palette of experiences students might pursue abroad, ranging from the traditional academic semester to jobs and internships to language immersion, *The Harvard Crimson* reported.

The editorial staff of *The Harvard Crimson* also wrote an opinions piece in their Jan. 16 issue rejecting the idea. "January is a time of year when, after break, we can enjoy a more leisurely reading and exam period than other schools get," the staff contended. "Between winter break and reading week, we enjoy plenty of time to prepare for exams and papers without having to dive into that work directly at the close of term, as happens in the spring," they wrote.

The Crimson staff members noted that shifting the fall semester to allow for a J-Term at Harvard would likely require their College to start at least two weeks earlier, interfering with summer internships and overloading professors.

Associate Editorial Chair of *The Crimson* Margaret M. Rossman noted last week, "More of the student body is talking about the issue of exams after Christmas. A lot of the student population has not thought about J-Term." Harvard is still waiting to hear from the Curricular Review Committee, but "students seem divided about calendar changes in general," said Rossman.

Harvard students began responding to the January term pro-



Vlad Lodoaba

Professor Murray Dry, vocal supporter of maintaining J-Term at Middlebury, has been advising Harvard regarding the possible addition of a winter term.

posal at an Undergraduate Council meeting last month, pointing out that a "low-key J-Term in which students take the equivalent of one class could mean a greater variety of visiting professors and more time for students to spend with friends," noted Bari M. Schwartz, a staff writer for *The Crimson*.

A poll conducted by *The Crimson* in December yielded 363 undergraduates split on the issue of exams before their winter break, with 45 percent favoring a pre-break exam schedule and 40 percent wanting no calendar changes.

However, it should be noted that the University's various schools do not have exams at the

same time, which creates difficulties for undergraduates wanting to enroll in other Harvard faculties.

Dry explained that he wrote a piece in *The Crimson* last spring when he was a visiting professor in the Department of Government, so the student publication knew to contact him when such a January term came under consideration.

"I think any college or university that is considering a winter term can benefit from an account of the pros and cons of such an academic program. I tried to provide just that, while indicating why I think it has been valuable for Middlebury," explained Dry.

"Many things take place dur-

ing Middlebury's J-Term. Some students do internships and some departments have comprehensive exams. Many departments also do recruiting at that time. And Teacher Education uses the time for practice teaching. Harvard may be aware of much of this," added Dry.

"Harvard may have learned that Middlebury's J-Term is controversial among faculty because it constitutes an extra 'preparation' and some disciplines may not lend themselves to a four-week course as well as others," he said. "I happen to think that our J-term is a wonderful time for faculty to continue to act as students by taking on something new and important for study."

Zeta Theta Phi faces restricted status

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

long-term well-being of the house and the level of commitment of its current membership and propose a self-sanction for consideration," according to Guttentag.

The proposed sanction, presented by Taylor, was approved and is in effect as of Feb. 10. The terms of the sanction dictate that ZOO will remain on probation for the remainder of the spring, a pledge class will not be recruited this semester and that Palmer House will not be reserved for ZOO next fall. "ZOO members who remain committed to the development of a new, stronger and more responsible organization

will remain active in planning for the future," said Guttentag, "and will encourage less-committed members to remove themselves from the organization."

"Regardless of any specific problem," said Taylor, "[we] recognize the need to re-evaluate our purpose and restructure accordingly."

According to Taylor, a proposal will be submitted to Residential System Coordinator Kelly Bevere and the IHC this month requesting that ZOO be relocated to a smaller house in the fall. Taylor hopes that ZOO will be able to negotiate a larger house for the following year, with an ultimate goal of regaining Palmer House.

Last spring, the Community Council placed ZOO on probation effective through September 2004 for dorm damage issues and the organization's failure to abide by College occupancy regulations for social houses, which requires that all beds be filled by house members. By last fall ZOO had solved its dorm damage problems and forged a compromise with the College that would allow members to continue living in parts of Palmer House, ZOO's traditional home, while other rooms would become available to non-members. Nevertheless, the compromise was deemed too complicated and was ultimately scrapped.

The only logical solution to ZOO's occupancy quandary was to enlist new members, but, according to Guttentag, ZOO leaders concluded that their organization "lacked the cohesion to be able to recruit and educate a pledge class successfully" and decided to wait until spring semester.

Guttentag was impressed with the IHC's handling of this affair and the recent efforts of Taylor and other ZOO leaders to remedy their untenable situation.

"The IHC agreed with the house leaders that the best hope for the future of the organization was to take these steps and give the committed members of the house

an opportunity to regroup," she said. Guttentag added that the sanction would be taken into account during the upcoming social and academic house review.

Guttentag noted that while the IHC is overseeing the sanction, it "has pledged its support to the remaining members who hope to reorganize ZOO and create a more effective organization."

For now, ZOO retains its status as an approved social house, albeit with some severe stipulations. Membership will have its hands full overcoming the terms of its self-imposed sanction, but sometimes it is best to start from scratch. "Essentially," Taylor said, "we need to start over."

Winter term deliberation continues

J-Term tops Board of Trustees' agenda, student concerns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

could take a month off from school in order to pursue internships, job opportunities or life outside the 'Middlebury bubble.' Having some students remain off campus during J-Term will reduce the number of courses that need to be offered in order to ensure that students have a wide variety of choices for J-Term."

The SGA worries that life without J-Term could mean an extra crunch for students trying to fulfill distribution and major requirements, not to mention lost opportunities for winter internships and study abroad flexibility.

"We haven't pushed any specific agenda other than representing the students by trying to save J-Term," explained Clarke. "We are working for something that would be better for the faculty without compromising the educational experience for the students. Fourteen-week semesters compromise the educational experience with no returns for students."

In the forums, polls and informal discussions of the past several weeks, many students described J-Term as an essential part of their Middlebury experience.

"J-Term is important because Middlebury is one of the few schools in the nation that still offer it," explained Yuichiro Mitsutomi '07. "That honestly affected my decision to come to Middlebury and I know there are others [who feel the same way]."

As a new student of German, Mitsutomi spoke about the importance of J-Term in foreign language departments. "I think [it's] important for those who are serious about studying a new language, since it gives people the time to really focus on this new language," he said.

With this student backlash in mind, the faculty will now consider both proposals in its March meeting. At its Feb. 16 meeting, the

EAC presented its plan to suspend normal parliamentary procedure for the March vote so the faculty can consider both measures simultaneously, choosing either one or the other rather than voting on each separately. The faculty would then choose between the most popular proposal and the current J-Term calendar. Though no formal discussion took place, some faculty voiced concerns about the proposals.

"If students love J-Term so much, why would we expect any

of them to want to miss it?" asked Amy Morsman, professor of History. Committee members indicated even a slight drop in student enrollment might ease some of the pressure on faculty.

President John McCardell noted that although the faculty's vote will have an important impact on J-Term's fate, the Board of Trustees will have the ultimate decision as J-Term is in fact an academic calendar issue, not just a curricular one.

"The Board will be the final stopping point for any decision

made this time around [on J-Term]. We need to go into these discussions and this vote with the knowledge that it will be advisory," he cautioned.

Though the meeting ended with little J-Term fanfare, Clarke told *The Middlebury Campus* that the fight has only just begun. "Students need to get out there and tell their professors why they value J-Term . . . The real haggling is yet to come in March and April," he said.

Should the faculty pass one of the proposals and win the consent

of the Board, the College would not see any change in the current system until at least the 2005-2006 academic year, and possibly not until 2006-2007. This does not seem to tone down the passion of the majority of the student body nor of the SGA.

"The SEAC [Student Educational Affairs Committee] is 100 percent behind a modified J-Term. We in no way have ever or will ever support the elimination of J-Term," insists Clarke. March will reveal if the faculty agrees with him.



Albert Bitici

Exiting Kirk Alumni Center, Robert Schine, President John McCardell and Professor Russ Lang converse after the faculty meeting Monday afternoon.

Middlebury College revamps student insurance policy

By Virginia Harper
STAFF WRITER

Assistant Treasurer Tom Corbin said this week that Middlebury College is researching new insurance policies that would enhance students' coverage of mental health care and prescription drugs. With the retirement of the College's student insurance agent, the Treasurer's Office decided it was an ideal time to review the current policy — an action that the College takes on a regular basis to investigate better options for students.

With prescription drug prices still on the rise, better coverage is increasingly important. Currently, the College can provide students with counseling services for one semester of each academic school year.

Enhanced coverage could make it easier and more affordable to receive counseling more

frequently.

Corbin said he is "working with representatives of Student Affairs, the Health Center, Language Schools, Sports Medicine,

With prescription drug prices on the rise, better coverage is increasingly important.

the Business Office, Financial Aid, the Counseling Center and Study Abroad. Each of these departments has needs that they would like to see met."

Corbin will now work with the new insurance agent to draft a

proposal. The current plan is comprised of various layers of separate policies and is complicated, especially for those insured as athletes and those who have bought catastrophe insurance.

One goal of the new policy is to simplify the entire process for students and to provide students with the most coverage for their money.

The plan in place now costs \$388 per year, and the Treasurer's Office hopes that the new plan will not exceed that price by much.

"If the price gets too expensive, students do not buy it, and so they are uninsured or underinsured," said Corbin. "If it is too low, then there is not enough coverage," he said.

Middlebury College plans to have the new insurance policy in place for students by the fall of 2004.

Fleishman honored at chapel service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Foundation will be establishing a camp scholarship Program for children with epilepsy in Fleishman's name and a Jason Fleishman College Initiative to generate support and understanding for epileptic students attending colleges and universities.

Butler's comments were followed by the Mischords' rendition of "Blackbird" and an emotional address by Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator Jodi Litchfield. A number of Fleishman's close friends also spoke, including Ski Patrol Co-President James Black '04, Sarah Bunnell '04, Julianne Baroody '04 and Timothy Marks '04. Bunnell, who was diagnosed with cancer last summer, said that Fleishman had been a major source of support for her. "When he asked how you were, he really wanted to know," she explained.

Marks, who helped Fleishman organize a J-Term benefit concert

for the Epilepsy Foundation of Vermont, called his friend's laugh "the best — it was infectious. No matter what was going on, he would make you feel better." Marks also read an excerpt from Fleishman's father Craig's eulogy.

Wonnacott Commons Dean Matt Longman was the final speaker of the evening. Longman, who represented the College at Fleishman's memorial services in Vail, Colo. last week, read a statement written by Fleishman's mother, Tina, thanking the Middlebury community for providing her son with such a great college experience.

The service concluded with the recitation of traditional Jewish prayers, led by Associate Chaplain and Rabbi Ira Schiffer. Following the final prayer, the entire congregation stood in silence for a few moments before departing for Redfield Proctor, where many gathered to share more memories of Fleishman's remarkable life.

Fee skyrockets for second straight year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Comprehensive Fee Committee resolved the budget with a lower fee increase for next year, but higher fee increases over the remaining four years. As a result, the SGA Comprehensive Fee recommendation for both 2007-08 and 2008-09 would be higher than the administration's proposal.

But Kilchevsky, who with his Committee spent J-Term creating a budget independent of the College administration, was disappointed in the decision and called the College's future promises "unrealistic." "We showed the school and we showed the students that a budget could be prepared that was under \$40,000. We showed them that it could be done, and they chose not to accept it."

Although the Committee's proposal may ultimately call for higher fees in future budgets, Kilchevsky sees it as important not to deal rising seniors, juniors and sophomores two large fee increases. "A sophomore that had to suffer through the 6.1 percent increase last year, shouldn't have to be burdened with a six percent increase this year," he said.

This year's increase, according to McCardell, is the result of "endowment underperformance and the need to continue to pursue College goals, which include faculty and staff compensation, meeting financial aid obligations, and covering all the other costs of operating the College."

Kilchevsky blamed the need for a six percent increase on the operating expenses which he said will arise from the new library and Atwater Commons.

Both McCardell and Huth, however, made it clear that the increase is not related to the opening of the new library and Atwater Commons, or the trustee's decision to begin exploring possible renovations of Starr and Proctor.

"Even if we were not adding a single square foot of new space, the cost of operating the College next year would be just about the same," McCardell said.

Huth admits the comprehensive fee "has been affected to a minor degree," but, like McCardell, considers Kilchevsky's assumption to be a misunderstanding.

McCardell noted that with the Library and Atwater Commons open, A-frames and Starr closed and the old science building demolished, operating costs for the new buildings will be offset. He maintained that any future projects would be covered by funds which have already been set aside.

"We set aside a certain amount each year for maintenance and modernization of other facilities in future years," he said. These funds would prevent renovations to Starr and Proctor from influencing the operating budget."

An additional issue regarding the decision was where it would position the college among its peer institutions. Now having passed \$40,000, what Martin Wesolowski '03, Kilchevsky's predecessor, considered a "looming landmark," this year's committee was concerned about the impact of entering the \$40,000 arena.

Pointing out Middlebury's traditionally high place among its peers in terms of comprehensive fee, Kilchevsky believes "it's going to move us way past every other school that we compete with academically."

But until other schools begin releasing their 2004-2005 comprehensive fees nothing is certain. Although it is generally accepted that Middlebury is more expen-

sive than many of its peers, McCardell feels that "we manage our funds very well in that we can compete successfully even with fewer resources." Huth said he expects Middlebury will not be the only college breaking \$40,000.

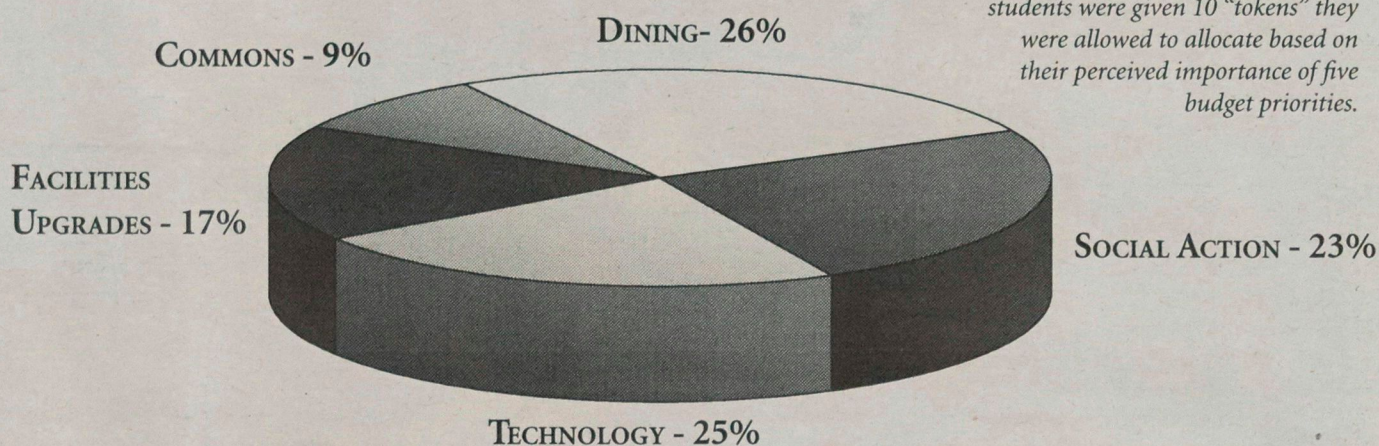
Although the trustees did not match the Committee's budget, they will review several initiatives, which aim to strengthen the commons, reduce waste and provide more funding for unpaid internships. According to Huth, "The administration has received these initiatives and will work with affected constituencies to get them into next year's budget that will be presented to the trustees in May."

Huth praised the Committee for its efforts and noted that trustees were also impressed with the extensive work done for the community and both he and McCardell noted the unique opportunity this project offered students to shape the College.

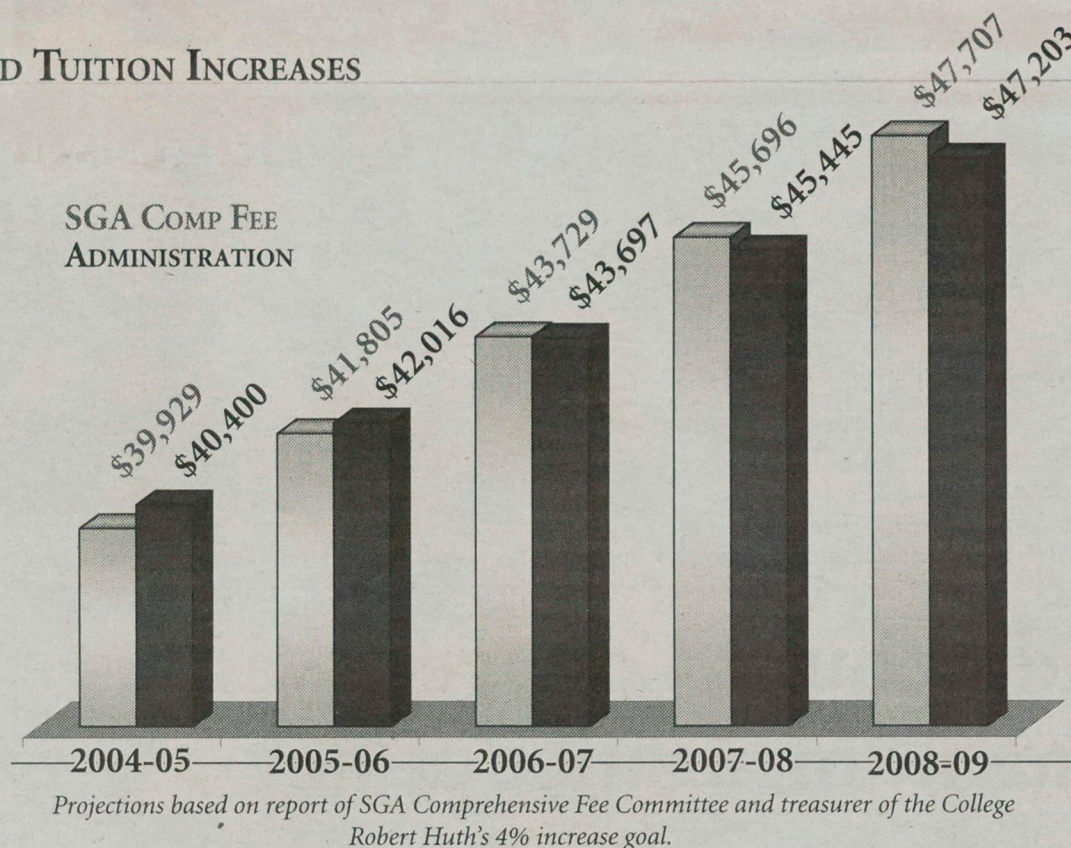
MIDDLEBURY VS. ITS RIVALS

School	2003-04 Tuition	Change from '02-'03
MIDDLEBURY	\$38,100	6.1%
HARVARD	\$37,928	5.5%
BOWDOIN	\$37,790	5.0%
DARTMOUTH	\$37,770	4.9%
SWARTHMORE	\$37,716	4.5%
WILLIAMS	\$35,750	5.9%

STUDENT BUDGET PRIORITIES



PROJECTED TUITION INCREASES



The Middlebury Campus ONLINE

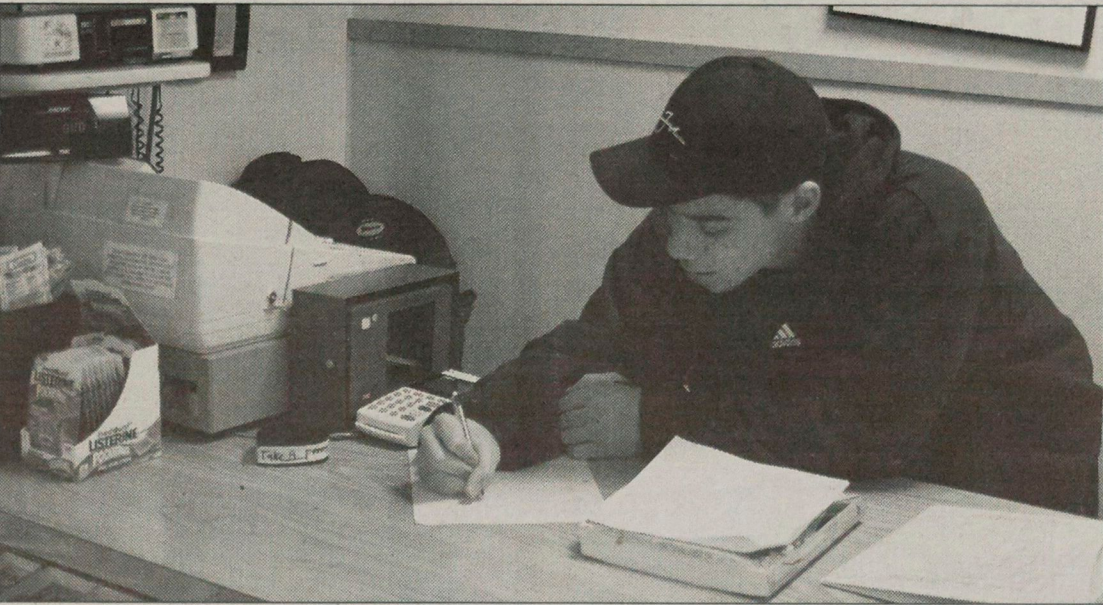
a brand new look | web exclusives | interactive message boards

www.middleburycampus.com

PLUS! all the latest campus news, arts events, sports scores and additional photos

MAKE IT YOUR HOMEPAGE FOR ONE-CLICK ACCESS TO
WEBMAIL, DINING HALL MENUS, BANNERWEB AND MORE

HITTING THE BOOKS



Awaiting the next customer, Ryan Johnson '06 (left) works on an assignment during some down time at Midd Xpress. Meanwhile, Steven Costelloe '07 and Adam Fazio '07 (below) concentrate on their work in The Grille Tuesday night.



Photos by Albert Bitici

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY CAROLINE STAUFFER AND TOM DRESCHER

Wesleyan professor researches zebrafish

Stephen Devoto, an assistant professor of biology at Wesleyan University, is currently studying the muscular development of the Zebrafish in search of treatments for heart disease, muscular dystrophy, birth defects and other muscle-related medical problems. Last year, Devoto received a four-year \$500,000 research grant from the National Institute of Health. Specifically, Devoto is interested in a special signaling protein the Zebrafish possess called Hedgehog. Without this protein, the muscle does not develop properly, which then may result in ailments such as muscular dystrophy. By studying this, Devoto hopes to understand how muscle fibers are formed in order to design therapies that will trigger muscle regeneration. Source: Wesleyan University Website

All-white scholarship on the table

A new scholarship is being offered by the College Republican's at Roger Williams University — for white students only. The scholarship — which is designed to protest affirmative action — requires an essay on “why you are proud of your white heritage” and a picture to “confirm whiteness.” The award is for \$250 and the application is supposed to parody minority scholarships. Jason Mattera, president of the College Republicans, is himself of Puerto Rican descent and the recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship open to only to a minority group. While some at the University were angered over the incident, the University is not getting involved. The school's provost, however, said that it is a student group's initiative and is not endorsed by Roger Williams. Source: CNN.com

Textbook prices spark controversy

Textbook publishers and some professors protested a Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group study that criticized publishing practices that have been driving up the cost of textbooks. The group surveyed 151 professors in California, claiming that publishers are printing out new editions unnecessarily in order to prevent the sale of used books. Thomson Learning, one of the companies mentioned in the report, however, claimed that the report was erroneous in its surveying and methodology. Because the company has launched two studies to subsequently cut costs of books, MassPIRG now conditionally endorses the company. One initiative, called the “Advantage Series,” offers stripped down versions of books with fewer colors and photos to decrease costs. The other encourages the sale of technology based course materials. The company maintains that these initiatives are not in response to the study, but the incident has generated debate in the academic community surrounding the rising costs of text books. Source: The Daily Free Press (Boston U.)

CLASSIFIEDS

***ACT NOW! Book 11 people, get 12th trip free.
Group discounts for 6+
www.springbreakdiscounts.com or 800-838-8202

MOVIE EXTRAS / MODELS NEEDED
Local & Statewide Productions
No Exp. Req'd, All Looks, Ages 18+
Minor & Major Roles Avail.

EARN UP TO \$300/DAY 1-800-818-7520
Make Money taking Online Surveys
Earn \$10-\$125 for Surveys
Earn \$25-\$250 for Focus Groups
Visit www.cash4students.com/vtmc

Florida only \$69 one way all taxes included.
Mexico/Caribbean \$125 each way all taxes included.
Europe \$169 each way. Other worldwide destinations cheap.
Book on-line www.airtech.com or (212) 219-7000

College sets goals for diversity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

display in such situations.” Ford also emphasizes that integration cannot come only from the top. “Support has to come hand-in-hand between students and administration. Administration should be there to back up student initiative,” he said. Ford recommends that the administration enhance Middlebury's visibility to a wider range of potential applicants and work to have more events involving the entire campus, not specific groups. In discussing figures of another aspect of diversity — diversity of sexual orientation — Graf highlights another perceived problem with ethnic diversity. Sexuality is “so much better than it was five years ago,” Graf said. He noted that a short time ago, something like *The Middlebury Campus' “Queer Eye for the Thrifty Guy”* would have caused uproar. He attributes this difference to the fact that more members of the Middlebury Community are open about their sexuality. “Students of color, however, cannot see themselves in every day life here,” he said. Ford also cited the lack of ethnic diversity in the faculty as a problem on campus. “Students of color want to see someone like them that they can look up to,” he said. Graf's report also found religious diversity to have increased on campus in recent years. Of the 63 percent of students who identified with a particular religion, the largest group were Catholics, followed by Jews. Graf attributes increasing religious diversity on campus to groups such as the Newman Club and Hillel. A future goal in terms of religious diversity is to have an Interfaith Center on campus.

public safety log

JANUARY 30 TO FEBRUARY 11, 2004

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
2/10/04	4:30 p.m.	Theft	Box	70 Hillcrest Rd.	Open; some property recovered
2/10/04	1:30 p.m.	Burglary	Residence	Painter	Open
2/10/04	12:50 a.m.	Vandalism	Light fixture	Hadley	No Suspects
1/30/04	Morning	Theft	Access Card	Proctor	Open
Unknown	Unknown	Theft	Parking Permit	C Lot	No Suspects
2/14/04	1:44 a.m.	Vandalism	Window	Allen Hall	Open
2/14/04	8:20 p.m.	Theft	Computer CPU	Hadley	No Suspects

localnews

8 RURAL FINANCE
BRINGING ALUMS
BACK TO VERMONT

9 FAIR SHARE
COLLEGE MONEY
HELPS TOWN-GOWN
RELATIONS

**9 RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
THE COLLEGE ISN'T
THE ONLY ONE WITH
A HOUSING CRUNCH

10 LOCAL FLAVOR
CHEAP EATS AT THE
HUNGRY BEAR

Initiative lures investors to the hills

By Joshua Carson
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

Not many people travel regularly from Weybridge, Vt., to London, but then again, not many people would think to start a financial firm in Weybridge either. "I'm leaving at 5 a.m. Saturday morning," Jim Robinson '84 told me (much to the dismay of his wife). Robinson is the founder and owner of, among other things, Middlebury Capital, a Weybridge based venture-backing company that helps to raise money to start up and develop incipient firms. With direct involvement in seven companies, five of which are in Europe, as well as passive investment in over a dozen more, Robinson has created a seemingly unorthodox niche for financial capital — Vermont.

After "adventuring" around the world for three years following graduation — fishing in Alaska, delivering yachts on the open ocean and traveling through India, Nepal and New Zealand — Robinson eventually ended up in Texas working under Jay Walker, the man who eventually founded priceline.com. There, Robinson observed first hand the rapid growth of a private start-up company. Now in Vermont, with a family and his own company, Robinson is working on an international level.

While running his business from a rural home/office — located off a dirt road — does not have the same atmosphere as the life on Wall Street, Robinson nevertheless describes himself as an "economic organism of the 21st century," where e-mail, cell phones and his two-pound laptop have eclipsed the traditional boundaries of geography and communication. And as an indication of his work ethic, he also reminded me, "You can sleep when you're dead."

It is this type of person that the state of Vermont would like to see more of working within its borders — bright, skilled, motivated and ambitious. And through a new partnership between the Vermont Higher Education Council, which

is composed of all Vermont colleges and universities, and the State administration, Governor Jim Douglas '72 hopes to "develop relationships to attract new companies to Vermont, making higher education an essential player in Vermont's economic future," as stated in the initiative's recent press release.

For its part, Middlebury College has already invested a significant amount of time in courting alumni, parents and friends to consider Vermont as a new investment opportunity. A Financial Services Industry Summit held Oct. 24 at the Kirk Alumni Center brought together financial professionals with College faculty, state economic developers and Governor Douglas "to get leaders in the financial services industry to think about locating some of their activities in Vermont, either by relocating to the state or by moving back-office operations from a metropolitan area," according to Secretary of the

College and Professor of Political Science Eric Davis.

By attracting alumni back to Vermont, new businesses will sustain and augment the state's economy and begin a transition from traditional industries such as manufacturing, minerals and agriculture to jobs like financial services that require lower infrastructure costs. Furthermore, it will allow the state to avoid becoming "overly dependent on a few large businesses, such as IBM in Essex Junction, which can reduce employment here as part of their global strategies," Davis said.

During the conference, it was noted that Vermont, while not a traditional location for financial service companies, provides both businesses and employees with an attractive alternative to an urban location. Vermont is one of only five states to have a balanced budget, which Gov. Douglas illustrated as being indicative of the state's conservative financial manage-

ment and potential attractiveness to business owners. Other presenters commented on the picturesque landscape, small community feel and high worker productivity.

The College has also supported the growth and continuation of an initiative called DigitalBridges2.0 which, under the guidance of D.K. Smith Professor of Applied Economics Michael Claudon, allows students the opportunity to network with alumni, parents and friends to aid, "Vermont's economy by encouraging entrepreneurship." The Middlebury Solutions Group, a subsidiary of DigitalBridges2.0, is staffed by undergraduates who, in collaboration with professional mentors, provide company-building services to Vermont entrepreneurs. Organizers hope these new businesses not only bolster state employment, but also create jobs for spouses of College faculty and staff — allowing the College to recruit professors more effectively at the national level.



Albert Bitici

Jim Robinson '84 runs his international business from his desk in Weybridge, Vt.

FLOWER POWER



Proudly displaying her flowers, Sandy Burkholder from The Blossom Basket in town sold a total of 450 flowers last week for Valentines Day — 400 tulips, four bunches of lilies, two bunches of orchids and a lot of balloons. The most popular flower color was red.

Photo by Albert Bitici

College, town work toward 'fair-share' pact

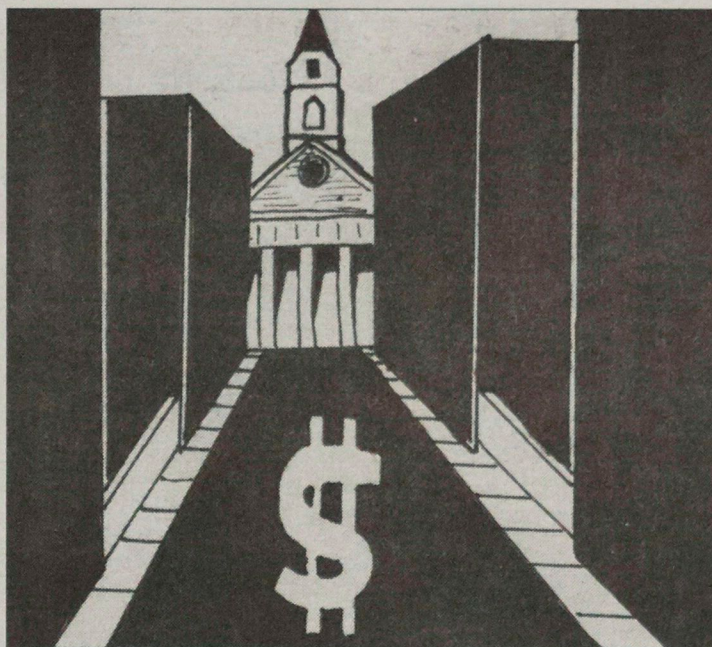
College donation reinforces town-gown relations

By Katherine Doorley
STAFF WRITER

The town's college or the College's town? It is undeniable that the relationship between Middlebury College and the town of Middlebury is important to maintain given the College's economic importance to the town as well as the numerous services that the town provides for students — from haircuts to groceries to medical services. Although many other schools can speak of town-gown tensions tainting their relationships with surrounding communities, Middlebury's town and college enjoy a friendly and mutually beneficial relationship because both town officials and College administrators have committed themselves to maintaining positive relations. This is evidenced by numerous agreements, notably the Fair-Share pact, which is currently under renegotiations.

The Fair-Share agreement originated in 1994 as a way for the College to contribute to the town of Middlebury's tax income despite its tax-exempt status, as well as a way for the College to show its recognition of and appreciation for the unique town-gown dynamic. The first gift covered the period of 1994 to 2004 and a new gift is currently under negotiation by the town council and College officials. According to President John McCardell, "[The first] was a gift of \$1 million given freely by the College in recognition of our historic relationship with the town and in acknowledgement of the services the town provides. It was also made to allow, as the Select Board Chair specifically noted, the town to do long-term planning. Several years later, an additional \$200,000 gift was made, in recognition of the College's plan to increase enrollment to 2,350 students."

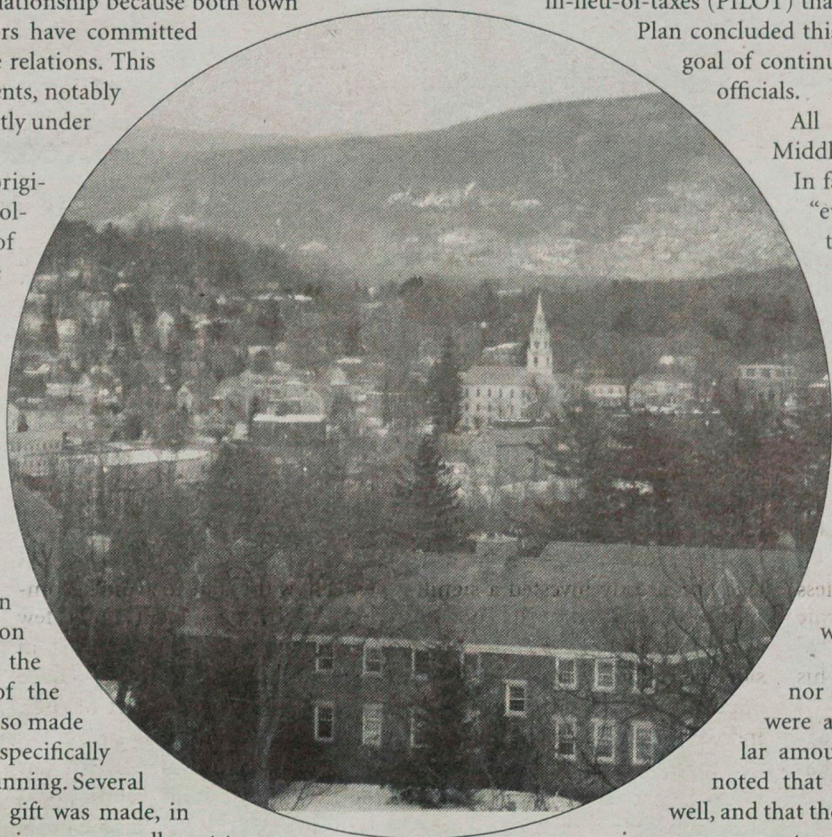
This agreement was also beneficial to the townspeople above and beyond the obvious uses for additional town projects funding. As stated in the Middlebury Town Plan for 1999-2004, "In Middlebury, there are



201 statutory, public, institutional and voter approved tax exempt properties. These have created, over many years, a higher local property tax burden for residential and business owners. This has been somewhat alleviated by a 10-year agreement with the College for a gift or payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) that was negotiated in 1994." The Plan concluded this section by stating the town's goal of continuing negotiations with College officials.

All of this is not to say that Middlebury fails to pay taxes at all. In fact, the Town Plan noted that, "even though largely tax-exempt, the College is one of the largest taxpayers in Town, due to its investment and non-educational property holdings, and it does pay its full share of water and sewer usage." However, the College's gift does help to spread out the tax burden more evenly and to subsidize town programs without forcing town officials to raise taxes to the levels they might have had to without the addition of the gift.

While neither McCardell, nor any of the town officials were able to comment on the dollar amounts in discussion, both sides noted that discussions were progressing well, and that the two sides were close to reaching an agreement on the amount and duration of the PILOT. An announcement of the specific details of the negotiations and their results can be expected sometime later this semester, continuing a tradition which can, at least partially, be credited for bringing the town of Middlebury and the College closer together.



Town grapples with new housing plans

By Kelsey Rinehart
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

At a Feb. 12 public meeting held by the Vermont Forum on Sprawl, representatives from the Vermont Neighborhoods Project (VTNP) promised to alleviate Middlebury's affordable housing crunch through a new development. The area to be developed, situated behind Marbleworks, between Otterside Apartments and the site of the new police department, extends from Seymour St. to the bank of Otter Creek.

Planning housing for what the town zoning has evaluated as a high-density area, the VTNP said its development would meet the town's functional needs while retaining a traditional, small-town New England feel.

Evan Goldsmith, head of the Vermont Forum on Sprawl, moderated the meeting, at which community members were present to voice feedback on the four design plans presented by Bob White and Caroline Raddish, the VTNP architects, planners and consultants in charge of the project.

At the previous meeting, community members' most widespread concern was the preservation of open space. Other wishes included a walkable neighborhood design and easy pathways to downtown via sidewalk, trail or a pedestrian bridge over Otter Creek. Community members also want a road connection between the Otterside complex and Lucius Shaw Rd. and a buffer transition — high shrubs or trees — between Seymour St. and Otterside. They also preferred owner-occupied housing, versus apartment rental and having a mix of incomes within the neighborhood instead of just affordable housing.

Attempting to meet these needs, White presented the widely varying plans, which differ in the "footprint" they would leave on the property — the density and size of the developed area. Plan A, which utilizes the most space, features all single-family homes in a series of cul-de-sacs that stretches along the river. White assured onlookers that this plan is a purely hypothetical demonstration of the maximum land use and acknowledged that

it is very unpopular with both its planners and the community.

Plan B, which features mostly large, barn-like units and few single-family homes, is arranged in cul-de-sacs, as is A. Plan B, however, condenses development to a smaller, square plot of land away from the river, leaving undisturbed a large area between the housing and Otter Creek.

Plan C explores the co-housing option, in which residents live in smaller individual units and share a central community hall, in which laundry and cooking facilities are available. Co-housing often features a daycare program or a community garden. Plan C features "mass" houses, which have normal-looking façades and apartments attached to the back. This plan proposes using two larger parking lots instead of individual driveways or garages.

An amalgam of plans A through C, Plan D includes attached townhouses and carriage units. Pathways leading from the road to the river crisscross a rectangular common between townhouses. The townhouses and

carriage units (parking below and housing above), if fully occupied, could accommodate 62 housing units.

At the Feb. 12 meeting, the concern for open space surfaced once again. One resident stated that although each plan included smaller green areas, none had any significant meadow space in which residents could walk their dogs or bring their children to play.

The planners are faced with the difficult task of cramming 50-plus housing units into the swath of land without destroying open space or giving the housing itself a too-crowded feel.

Goldsmith said that the next step would be evaluating the community's responses from the Feb. 12 meeting and refining the design vision accordingly.

Incorporating all the concerns "is a pretty challenging next step," Goldsmith said.

The next cut of design plans, which will be on display at the town's municipal center, will include a more thorough examination of the designs' financial feasibility.

RURAL REALITIES

BY CRYSTAL BELLE

Living in an environment where cow tipping and skiing seem to be popular activities, I have realized that music has different effects on people who live in rural areas than those who live in more urban cities. To my community back home, music, particularly hip-hop music, serves as the voice of the people. We look to hip-hop to express how we feel from a socio-economic and political standpoint. In New England, music represents more of a pastime as opposed to a true social movement. Yes, many look to songs for answers on love, life and friendships, but what about people who rely on music to answer questions regarding poverty, injustice and inner-city life? How can the same song evoke such completely different meanings for different people? The same way a poem can be interpreted in a million different ways. Depending on your life experiences, musical tastes and political standpoint, a song that may seem ridiculous to you, might just change my life.

Although I always knew that music affects people differently depending on their environment, ethnicity and gender, I revisited this revelation while working on an assignment in my "Music and Social Movements" course. The assignment was to pick a song that is popular on the Middlebury and determine how it connects to a larger theme of a social community. My group members and I came up with the song "Hey Ya" performed by Andre 3000 of Outkast. We knew for a fact this song was popular at Middlebury as, at parties, everyone happily screams, "Shake it like a Polaroid picture," in unison. However, after our interviews with several people and discussion among ourselves, we realized that the song had a completely different meaning to us than it did to a large majority of the College community.

Many shrugged off the song as one that is both silly and sexually driven, consisting mainly of comedic lyrics. However, to me, "Shake it like a Polaroid picture," has a deeper meaning. That line is truly poetic and brilliant and is a reflection of the breakdown of the song from an initial longing for love to a final nonchalance regarding the subject. The first two verses are reflections of a man who has experienced frustration with love, an emotion to which everyone can relate. Towards the end, he decides to leave "true love" alone, as he believes that it cannot exist: "If what we say is 'nothing is forever' / Then what makes love the exception."

Yes, the song makes everyone want to dance and have fun, however we must also consider that to the Atlanta native the southern dialect and drawl represents the working class community Andre 3000 hails from. There is no way one can or should listen to the song without any regard to the language and voice. It is a language and a voice that is confident, creative and carefree. It is as much about the crossing-over of hip-hop culture and the evolution of "Black Music" as it is about overall happiness. Consequently, the song has the power to appeal to the rural farmer and the urban street dweller in completely different ways.

The Middlebury Inn



Chef James Logan invites you to dine with us seven days a week
in our

Founder's Restaurant and Morgan Tavern

Featuring **New England Fare with a Flair**

Wild Mushroom Cappuccino

Potato Crusted Salmon

House made Sambuca Chocolate Chip Gelato

Or enjoy our **Bistro Specialties** for a quick bite – **Flatbread**

Pizza, Burgers...

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT in our **Morgan Tavern**

Thursday 2/19 "5 Town Band"
7:30pm-8:30pm

Thursday 2/26 "Ivory"
7:30pm-8:30pm

5:30pm til' close Dinner Reservations Suggested~ call 388-4961
Casual Attire

The Middlebury Campus

invites you to
advertise your local
business here

visit
www.middleburycampus.com
for our rate sheets

OR

e-mail
campusbiz@middlebury.edu
for more information

do you know of someone or something in the local
community that might interest our readers?

e-mail campus@middlebury.edu with story ideas

news.
local news.
opinions.
features.
arts.
sports.

it's all
online.

www.middleburycampus.com

Middlebury Transit

Personalized Regional Transportation
Travel in Style



Holiday Travel
Airport – Amtrak Station
Transportation
Call for Rates and Reservations
388-3838
800-388-1002
www.middleburytransit.com

THE LOCAL FLAVOR

BY KELSEY VAN WART, GENA
SCHIFFENHAUS & DREW EDELESTEIN

RESTAURANT THE HUNGRY BEAR

LOCATION

193 MAIN ST., VERGENNES

HOURS

11 A.M.-9 P.M.

FEATURES

AMERICAN FARE

On a cold Friday night in February, we headed to Vergennes in great anticipation, for we were Vergennes virgins. We wandered through the streets searching for an enjoyable and romantic restaurant and stumbled upon the Black Sheep Bistro. We made it five feet into the restaurant before being turned away. According to a couple from Burlington, one needed "reservations" to eat here. So, instead we sought out a place that eschewed reservations and non-fried food. Like the Red Sea, the Vergennes Main Street parted to show us our salvation — the Hungry Bear. We entered the restaurant and the sign held by an authentic looking bear read, "Please seat yourself." Fine by us.

However, before sitting down, we could not help but place our hands in its paw, hoping for contact with soft, lustrous fur. We sat down in sadness, for we had only touched a cold, hard, artificial, man-made, plastic bear. This moment of melancholy was quickly chased away by the smile of our server.

The Hungry Bear was formerly known as Togo's, but since that name was copyrighted by a chain on the West Coast, the owners took inspiration from the bear statue that had just greeted us. Our stomachs growled like grizzlies as we looked over the menu.

The menu displayed an eclectic assortment of choices, ranging

from light fare, such as chicken fingers, to heavy sirloin steak.

Also included was a daily specials menu. For an appetizer, we decided to share an order of Papa Bear Skins. These came as a delightful surprise, as they were unlike any potato skins any of us had ever tasted. They were fresh potatoes, not the usual freezer variety, and the bacon was straight off the pig. Accompanied by chilled sour cream, it was the perfect beginning.

We then indulged in chicken fingers which were tasty, but seemed to be store bought. The quesadillas were flavorful, but the salsa somewhat overpowering. Atop the quesadillas, there stood in all its majesty a perfectly formed tortilla chip in the shape of a bowl. In this bowl was an arrangement of guacamole and sour cream. This was quite a surprise and the guacamole was a pleasing shade of green and had a creamy texture.

The fried chicken dinner was a little dry, but what it lacked in moistness, it made up for in heartburn. The mashed potatoes were standard fare, but the gravy added an extra zest to the experience.

It should be noted that the dinners were accompanied by garlic bread and the soup du jour. Indeed, such dinners would be fit for very hungry bears. And what would be a traditional Vergennes dinner without the cheese steak — a town tradition of deliciousness?

Stuffed to brim with meat, it begged the questions, "Could anything be more satisfying?" and "how exactly do I fit this into my mouth?"

With fantastic service, reasonable prices (roughly \$10 a person) and bland yet heartwarming décor, we recommend the Hungry Bear for a "bear-y" good time.



Reviving Romance

As romance columnists, we are asked such questions as "How do I spice up my love life?" Tragically, the most frequently asked question is, "Do I look fat in this dress?" Our answer is a definitive, "Uh, I don't know."

Fortunately, you can remove any doubts about yourself by visiting the Middlebury athletic complex. And what better way to get in shape than with your loved one or significant other?

We tested this question one fateful February morn. We donned fashionable work-out clothes and headed towards the gym. In search of things to do outside the bubble — we headed straight into it. Our ears popped as we were swirled into the squash courts by means of revolving doors. Gena, apparently unaccustomed to any organized sports or physical activity, stood idly by as Kelsey and Drew expertly opened the glass doors.

Bare footed and fancy free, we decided to maximize our fun by not adhering to any set rules. Such rule breaking can stimulate a couple's arduous passions. We played with rackets lent to us by the front desk. Unfortunately, they were missing many strings and had sharp points that made Kelsey quiver with rage. We sent the ball hither and thither until it

ricocheted off the wall and nailed Kelsey's head. It remained spinning and entangled in her hair.

With our squash careers behind us, we continued to explore the complex. The climbing wall provided a challenging yet entertaining outlet for our energies. Experts equate scaling the wall to climbing Mt. Everest, that is if Mt. Everest were made of durable plastic and was roughly 20 feet tall.

Couples will enjoy assisting each other up the wall and feeling a sense of accomplishment. Finally, we made our way to the workout room, where we observed the football and lacrosse players lifting small mountains. The weight room provides a constructive outlet for relationship tension, and couples can bolster communication skills by learning to "spot" each other. In addition, the gym is a great place to check out other prospects — in case it just doesn't work out with your current crush.

With Drew's ego sufficiently bruised, Gena's body in tortured pain and her mind filled with hatred towards those who are athletically blessed and Kelsey dreaming of a career as an Olympic squash player/Mount Everest conqueror, we returned, happier, though sorer, than before. Our hearts beat with a newfound metabolic rate.

—K.V.W., G.S. & D.E.

The Middlebury Campus

SEEKS STAFF WRITERS FOR ALL EDITORIAL DEPARTMENTS.

E-MAIL CAMPUS@MIDDLEBURY.EDU FOR MORE INFORMATION.

STSTRAVEL.COM

Join America's #1 Student Tour Operator



**CANCUN
ACAPULCO
JAMAICA
BAHAMAS
FLORIDA**



Sell Trips, Earn Cash,
Go Free! Now Hiring
Call for group discounts

1-800-648-4849 / www.ststravel.com

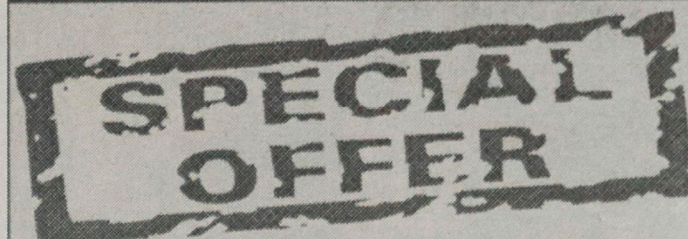
ADVERTISE WITH

The
Middlebury
Campus
Publications

LOG ONTO

www.middleburycampus.com
FOR RATE SHEETS

SPRING BREAK '04 Don't Get Left Behind!



Cancun, Jamaica, Acapulco, Barbados,
Bahamas, Mazatlan, Padre & Florida!

SAVE \$100 PER ROOM

Clip & Send

or

Use Code:

PRMMG

Online



Cannot be combined with any other offer.

\$100 off per room based on quad occupancy.

Only valid for trips including airfare. Offer expires April 1, 2004.

www.sunsplasztours.com

1.800.426.7710

FRIENDS WORLD PROGRAM

LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY

Live, Study and Work Abroad While Earning College Credit

Year and semester-long programs in:

**Japan • China
England • India
Costa Rica**

Year-long program in
Comparative Religion in:

**Taiwan • India
Thailand**

Experiential learning through
cultural immersion, academic
seminars, and independent field
study makes Friends World the
educational experience of
a lifetime.

For information contact:

Friends World Program
Long Island University
239 Montauk Highway, Southampton, NY 11968

(631) 287-8474

e-mail: fw@liu.edu

www.liu.edu/friendsworld

The Friends World Program is part of Long Island University, the eighth largest private university in the country.



FRIENDS WORLD PROGRAM

**LONG ISLAND
UNIVERSITY**

**NEW! \$500 Travel Incentive Award
for Fall 2004 Visiting Students**

www.middleburycampus.com

all new site | log on today

Opinions

The Middlebury Campus
Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Devin B. Zatorski

Managing Editor
Claire M. L. Bourne

Business Director
Deborah Jones

Associate Editors
Andrea Gissing
Edward Pickering
Chesley Thurber

News Editors
Daniel L. J. Phillips
Caroline Stauffer

Assistant News Editor
Thomas Drescher

Local News Editors
Joshua Carson
Lisie Mehlman

Opinions Editor
Jake Kuipers
Abbas Hajizadeh

Features Editors
David Barker
Abbie Beane

Assistant Features Editor
Aglaya Glebova

Arts Editors
Chris Grosso
Erika Mercer

Sports Editors
Tom McCann
David Freedman

Assistant Sports Editor
Ryan Reese

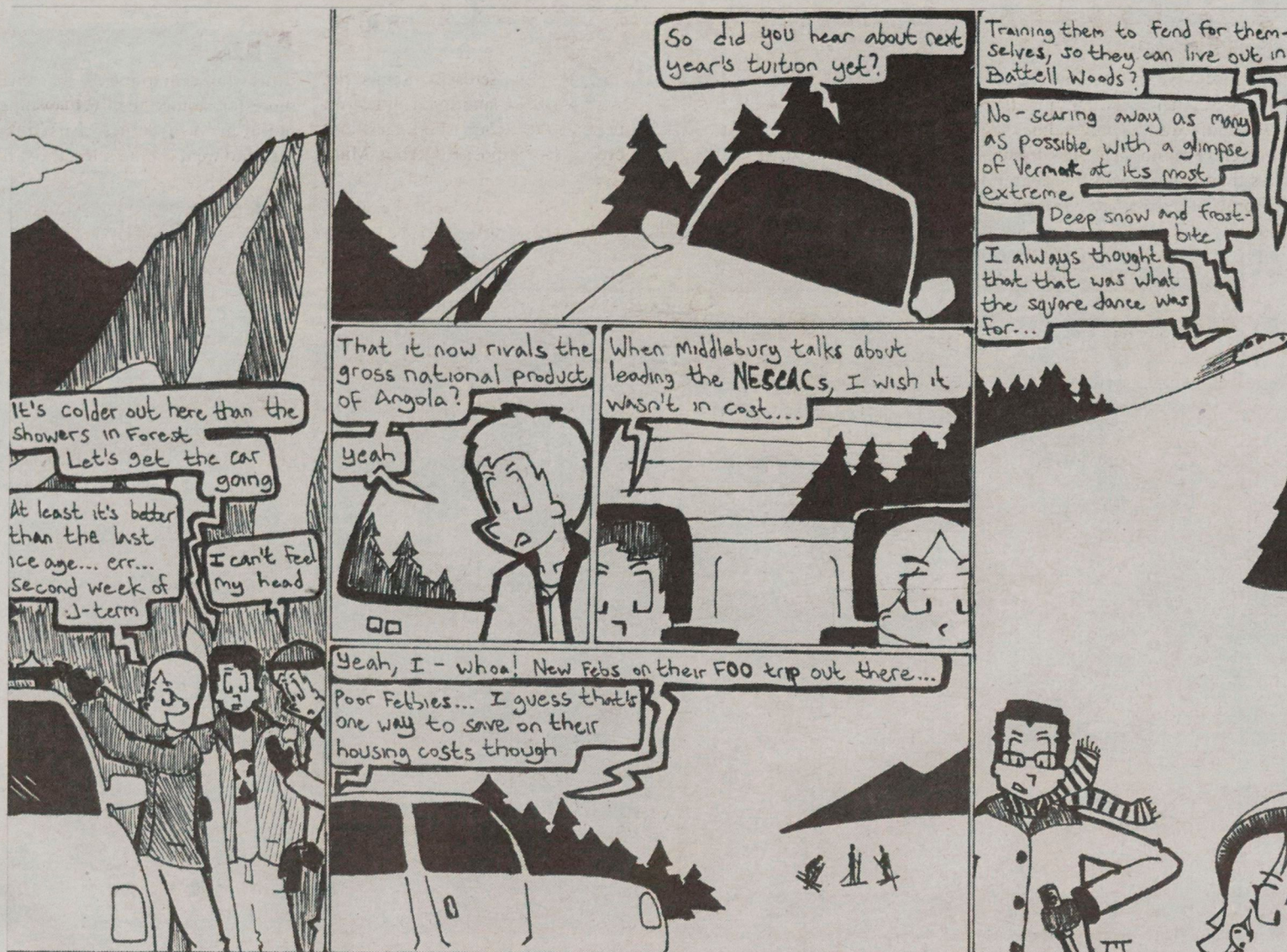
Photography Editors
Albert Bitici
Vlad Lodoaba

Online Editor
Scott Bulua

Production Assistant
Laura Kuhl

Tech Consultant
Dan Stone

Illustrator
Nate Dorr
Copy Editors: John McKinley,
Laura Rockefeller, Jason Siegel



Editorial

The Administration's Elusive Logic: A Homeless ZOO

Zeta Theta Phi (ZOO) was mysteriously stripped of Palmer House effective Feb. 10. The Dean of Student Affairs Office and Inter-House Council officials were predictably tight-lipped about the circumstances surrounding the decision. Assistant Dean of Student Affairs said only that ZOO "faced several challenging situations." Other officials had nothing to add.

Such opaque language underscores a disciplinary process that's anything but transparent. As ZOO charts its future — and, indeed, struggles to ensure that it has one — information should flow to the student body.

ZOO's eviction from Palmer House is a dramatic step. If it's warranted, the Dean of Student Affairs and the IHC should have a robust case against the house that's discussed in the light of day. Negotiating behind closed doors — and then billing the action as ZOO's self-imposed sanction for crimes left unsaid — robs the process of legitimacy in the public eye.

Such secrecy also raises serious questions about the future of the social houses at Middlebury. ZOO's downfall could herald a gradual dismantling of the system as we know it. Precedent matters. If ZOO can be deprived of its house without clearly delineated, public charges against it, all social houses should consider themselves on notice.

The only solution is to achieve transparency in disciplinary dealings that reflects a commitment to social houses as a vital part of Middlebury's social landscape. That requires more elaboration than "several challenging situations."

ZOO is now a vagrant social house — soon to become an organization without a roof. During this difficult phase in its history, ZOO must be allowed to maintain its house — or be assigned another one — if it's to be expected to regroup and set itself on a course to sustainable relations with the administration. Losing their address is tantamount to losing their organization. ZOO's Acting President Leigh Taylor '05 said the house must essentially start over. She and her fellow house leaders must be empowered to do that. Expecting such a transformation without a physical space is both punitive and short-sighted.

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's Web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

The Middlebury Campus (USPS 556-060), the student newspaper of Middlebury College, is published by The Middlebury Campus Publications. Publication is every Thursday of the academic year, except during official college vacation periods and final examinations. Editorial and business offices are located in Hepburn Hall Annex, Middlebury College. The Middlebury Campus is produced on Apple Macintosh computers using Adobe InDesign 2.0 and is printed by BD Press in Burlington, Vt. The advertising deadline for all display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue. Mailing address: The Middlebury Campus, Drawer 30, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., 05753. Office phone: (802) 443-5736. Business phone: (802) 443-5737. Please address distribution concerns to the Business Director. First class postage paid at Middlebury, Vt., 05753.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I've severed [my] tie of Baba's [with] Middlebury. I'm living in the beauty of the Northeast Kingdom and loving life. I do however miss dearly my favorite students (you all know who you are!) and wanted to let them know how much you all mean to me! There were a lot of students that made my job at Baba's most tolerable and fun. I'm still even in contact via e-mail with some who have graduated. I have wanted to send a letter but have been putting it off until the recent loss of an alumnus. So, I decided to use my own advice and motto, "Don't ever put things off, you may not get the chance to even do it, and sometimes just thinking about it isn't enough ... no regrets!" Make sure you all call your parents and let them know you care and appreciate them, and I'll always hold a place in my thoughts for you all. You can e-mail me at kassi59@hotmail.com. I'd love to hear from you!

Sincerely,
Kate Bombard, cashier from the old Baba's

To the Editor:

I recently received an e-mail, forwarded several times, that essentially said that a member of the SGA Educational Affairs Committee is asking friends to ask friends to write to *The Campus* in support of J-Term. According to the e-mail, this committee member believes that the faculty is about to vote down J-Term, and the only thing that will save it is a student outburst, apparently via letters to *The Campus*. Don't get me wrong, I am a huge supporter of J-Term, especially in terms of its irreplaceable benefit to beginning language programs. But the SGA's tactics here are ridiculous. In my opinion, the SGA has been a total wash this year (what was the deal with Sam Rodriguez getting all huffy about the Feb orientation alcohol pledge?). The debate over J-Term was a perfect opportunity for the SGA to establish itself behind a worthy goal and rally student support. But instead, they have waited until the last minute to take half-hearted measures. The SGA could have taken a stand but they didn't. If J-Term is, indeed, eliminated, I believe that an apathetic/lazy/poorly organized SGA is party to blame.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Golze '06

To the Editor:

On occasion, even old alums visit the online pages of *The Middlebury Campus*. In this case, I was moved to respond to last week's "Notes from the Desk" [Feb. 12]. While it was about a style makeover, you also mentioned the goal of striving to deliver even-handed coverage. Sigh. During 1980, I was literally in your shoes. We tried to rabble-rouse the students, faculty and administration. I remember sitting at meals overhearing reactions to whatever was printed. Even then we were swimming against the tide, as students were pretty much involved in what was called the "me generation" of the early '80s. Hope to see some more adventurous moves.

Sincerely,
Debby Richman '82

Laundry soils student life

Mac Gray you are going to F—king pay! After spending more than two hours washing my clothes last weekend I cannot help but curse this less-than-par company that attempts to provide decent laundry facilities. To fully understand my rage let us journey back in time to last Thursday and my trip to Stewart...

The first week of spring semester had crept up, and I realized that over J-Term laundry had been very low on my list of priorities. At this point, a mountain of cotton and wool consumed my laundry basket and had even begun to creep out of my closet. We all try to escape that inevitable trip of improving our hygiene with regards to clean clothing, but Febreeze will only go so far. The time for me to take action had come. I loaded that foul mound into a bag and left my comfy room in Starr to make the journey to Stewart basement.

Usually the trip to this facility, with its more-than-convenient location in relation to my dorm, lowers my spirits. Today, however, I felt different. As I walked, a sense of optimism had begun to grow in me until I actually became excited about the task that

lay ahead. I reached Stew dreaming of fresh socks and feeling sorry for the kids that live in Jewett house. They must suffer a long walk for their clean clothes.

This pleasant mood would soon change.

The evening began with a

heap of dirty setbacks. Remember that to use the laundry facilities you need to have your Midd Card and even more importantly your Midd Card must have money on it?

Well, I managed to forget both and began the cleaning process only after two trips back to my dorm.

"Clean undies here we come," or so I thought. I removed the wet clothing belonging to other stu-

dents who seem to use the machines more for storage than for washing, put in my own clothes, charged my card and went over to select the various cycles.

One of my machines failed to respond. After charging my card twice, unplugging the machine and yelling, I realized all efforts were futile.

The other machines were all in use and so I made my way over to the next closest laundry room in Forest Hall. At this point I had two loads of laundry going simultaneously on different sides of College Street.

When the time to dry arrived, I opened up the machine in Forest to find that my clothes were not even wet! All this time and energy wasted and my clothes never even got washed.

This night of laundry disaster has not been my first. From dryers that don't dry to machines that tear clothes. I cannot stand doing laundry.

The service that Mac Gray Inc. provides makes cleaning clothes torturous.

My night ended with a phone call to the company, which I hope may change the situation. I left Forest that night with my bag full of dirty but dried clothes feeling disgusted.

JOHN KRUCHOSKI '06.5
A INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MAJOR
FROM MINNETONKA, MINN.



NOTES FROM THE DESK

Imagine walking into a room in a foreign country and finding, after a quick survey of the walls, a poster with the caption reading "Down with Americans." At first, feelings of concern and fear fill your stream of thought. Then a question, "Have I acted as an individual American to justify this hate?"

Here at Middlebury College, men have experienced those same feelings of concern and fear when entering the Cook Seminar room. Peppered around the room are posters that seem to be advocating women's rights. As you pan over them, one poster catches the eye as particularly hostile. It depicts pictures of men from around campus lined up and crossed out with red pen in what seems to be a gesture of passive-aggressive violence. In the center, it reads in thick crimson-red pen, "I DON'T NEED NO STINK-IN' MEN."

The poster voices the anti-social views of a radical minority of the feminist movement. This off-shoot has created a movement of hatred that attempts to instigate a pseudo-war with men, deviating from the original constructive feminist movement for equality. The poster seems to be declaring that it is wrong to be a man, and that men are a woman's worst enemies. We witness in this classroom the deterioration of feminism into a movement seeking revenge in place of justice. These ideas should not and cannot be tolerated by both the respectable feminists as well as Middlebury College's population. Why should anyone put up with being annoyed and provoked by these rather starkly undemocratic ideas of exclusion of half the world's population?

This pointless pursuit of reverse oppression, by which this radical group is attempting to oppress men, is neither logical nor ethical. In the world we live in where equality is placed so highly, it serves no purpose to try to oppress those that oppress you. In Freire's "Pedagogy of the Oppressed," he finds that those that oppress their oppressors are weak in motivation and argument. In relation, this radical feminist movement is implausible and has lost sight of the true nature of the feminist movement — equality.

—ABBAS HAJIZADEH & JAKE KUIPERS
OPINIONS EDITORS
THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A time to shop? A time to drop?

I write in response to Andrew Gustafson's letter to the editor regarding J-Term and course "shopping." Gustafson argues that the shortness of our semesters and a dearth of online material describing courses make it difficult to select classes. Gustafson suggests that J-Term should be eliminated to allow for longer semesters including a "shopping" period.

First, I think that expanding online resources is sufficient to allow students to make more informed course selections. I think the simplest approach is to make course syllabi available online before the beginning of the semester. This will allow students to see what materials they will be using, what topics they will be covering and what work will be expected of them. Any further questions a student may have can typically be answered by contacting professors directly. Like students, professors have an interest in enrolling enthusiastic students and

are usually happy to answer questions about their courses. For all other questions, word of mouth is typically adequate.

Second, I deplore the idea of a two-week "shopping" period. One of the virtues of our current schedule is that every class is significant. If we institute two weeks for shopping at the beginning of each semester, we effectively require that classes held those two weeks be relatively insubstantial to allow students who have spent them elsewhere to join without penalty. We would also put professors in the unfortunate position of having to either attract students with gimmicky sessions or deter students with harsh behavior. While we learn best in the classes we enjoy, we shouldn't forget that we're not here for entertainment.

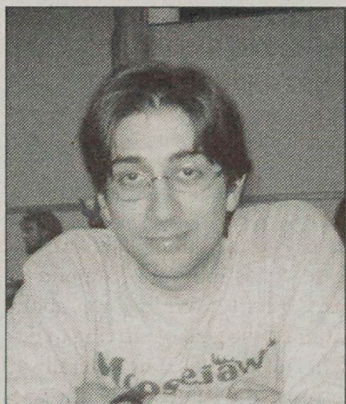
Finally, I think "shopping" would be a horrible excuse for abandoning J-Term. The fate of J-Term needs to be decided on its own merits, and "shopping" is ir-

relevant to the real issues. It is time for students to become more vocal in the J-Term debate. I think few students realize how close we are to losing Winter Term. Currently, a majority of the faculty opposes J-Term, citing primarily the increased teaching loads it requires. Though the final decision rests with the trustees, they will probably follow the faculty's recommendation, and this means that students need to communicate with their professors and cultivate faculty support. To save J-Term, we as students need to let our professors know how valuable it is. I have had fantastic Winter Terms, especially in the last two years. Last year, I studied Tolkien with Professor Dickerson and was tremendously excited to examine books I've loved since elementary school in an academic environment. This year, I took a course examining the history of Middlebury College and the meaning of liberal arts education. In addition to learning

some interesting Middlebury history, I was encouraged to reexamine my own curriculum and changed my course selections for this term. These were unique academic experiences that I would not have enjoyed without Winter Term. Courses offered in January can ask questions and make interdisciplinary connections not possible during the regular year. While these courses may not be integral to any certain discipline, they do serve to pique intellectual curiosity and thus contribute to a liberal education, broadly conceived. J-Term sets Middlebury apart from its peer institutions, and losing it would be a sore blow. Students, help your professors to understand the valuable role J-Term plays in a Middlebury education, and let them know that we appreciate their efforts in making J-Term a success.

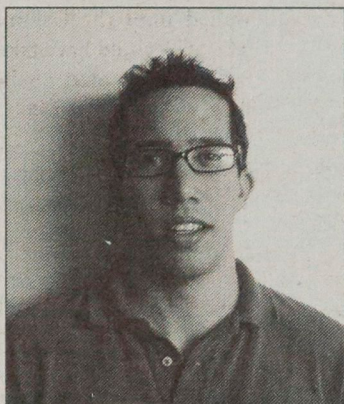
JEFF KOPPERNOLLE '04
A MATH AND POLITICAL SCIENCE DOUBLE
MAJOR FROM PARKER, COLO.

The Middlebury Campus online poll



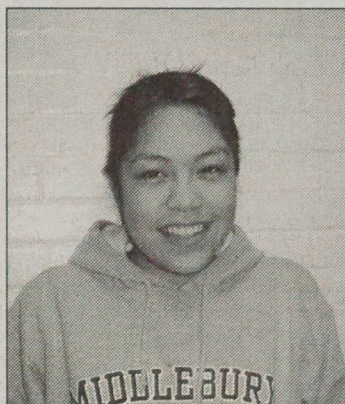
NO PREFERENCE, I JUST LIKE TO SIT ON CUTE GIRL'S LAPS.

—ANDREW HARGER '06.5



AN UNCOMFORTABLE CHAIR WOULD PROBABLY JUST DISTRACT YOU FROM LEARNING.

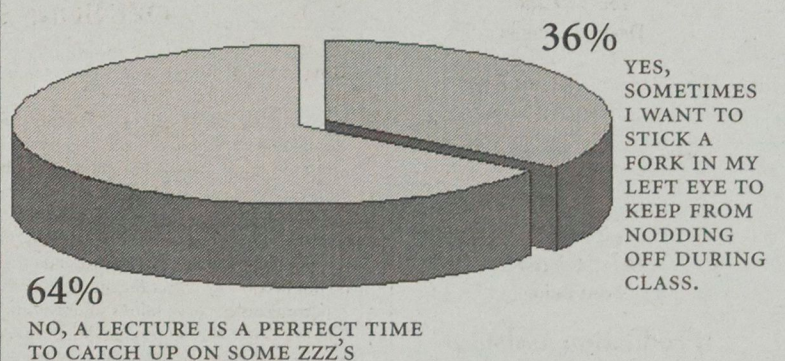
—ALFONSO MARAVER '05



I THINK I WOULD PAY A LOT MORE ATTENTION FROM A COMFORTABLE SEAT.

—DARCEL WILLIAMS '06

SHOULD CLASSROOM SEATING BE LESS COMFORTABLE TO AVOID DOZING DURING LECTURES?



Results based on 50 responses collected between Feb. 10 and Feb. 17 at www.middleburycampus.com

NEXT WEEK'S POLL QUESTION: DOES THE HIGH COMPREHENSIVE FEE AFFECT THE ACCESSIBILITY OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE TO A NUMBER OF GIFTED STUDENTS?

Speak Out or Lose Out

Faculty Has Lost Sight of College's True J-Term Ideals

J-Term is on the chopping block. It will be cut out of Middlebury's academic calendar unless students speak out now. In January, the faculty's Educational Affairs Committee (EAC) released two "Winter Term/Calendar Proposals." Faculty members will vote on these proposals in March and decide whether they want to improve and preserve J-Term or adopt a two-semester calendar. If students fail to make their voices heard, we will lose J-Term and gain nothing in return.

Switching to a two-semester calendar would reduce faculty workload at the expense of students' educational experience. Students use J-Term classes to go outside their majors and experiment in different subject areas. This allows students to fulfill distribution requirements without having to shuffle their schedules or miss the opportunity to take exciting classes in their majors. Eliminating J-Term would severely restrict students' academic freedom by making it harder to fulfill distribution and major requirements. At the same time, lowering

these requirements would compromise Middlebury College's commitment to giving students a diverse and rigorous liberal arts education. Nevertheless, many faculty members want to eliminate J-Term in order to avoid having to teach an extra class and then rush to grade J-Term work while preparing to teach in the spring.

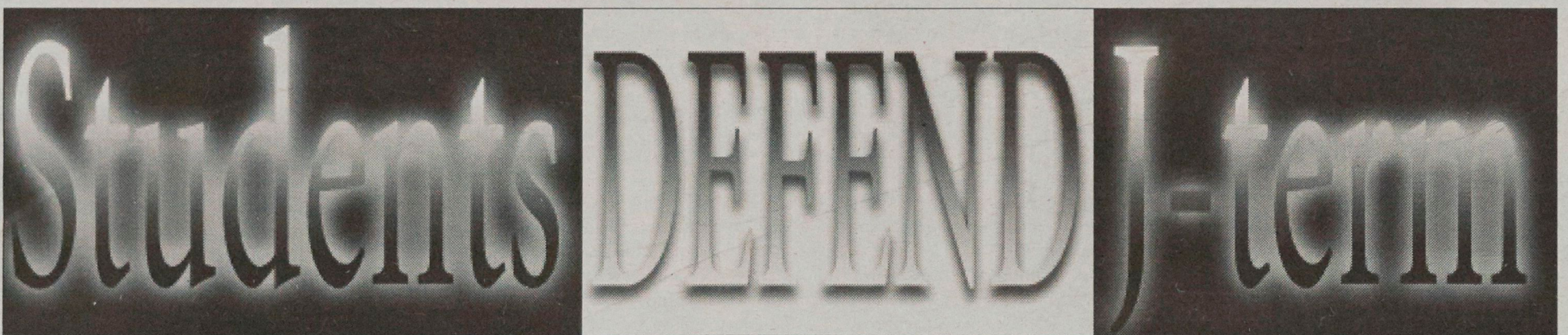
Opponents of J-Term often fail to realize the value of J-Term. Because students are not in class all day, many assume that J-Term is nothing more than a time for drinking or skiing. However, statistics show that this is simply not the case. Every year over 800 students take part in J-Term workshops that teach everything from auto mechanics to Urdu. These workshops give every member of the college the chance to share their knowledge and experience with the community while helping others learn something new and exciting. During fall and spring semesters, students are too busy balancing classes, clubs and sports to really get the most from Middlebury. A two-semester calendar could never give students the same opportunities for learning and experimentation.

It would, however, give students plenty of time to get bored with

their work and become completely stressed out. This is why the faculty members who are least excited about the idea of teaching 14-week-long classes are the ones that have actually taught for 14 weeks or taken a class for 14 weeks. Those who have experienced a 14-week term know that it creates burnout and fatigue. Even though some professors have said that a 14-week term would allow them to spread out coursework and reduce stress, many more want to use the 14-week term to assign additional reading and cover a greater amount of material. Every great teacher wants to teach more than he or she can, but longer classes are no compensation for fewer courses.

Each new class and each new J-Term is an opportunity to experiment academically and to experience a different part of the college community. Every student at this college knows that eliminating J-Term will eliminate a part of what makes Middlebury great. However, many professors have lost sight of what makes J-Term so valuable. If we fail to act now and make our voices heard, the faculty will vote in its own self-interest instead of the College's best interest.

STEPHEN CLARKE '04
CHAIRMAN OF THE SEAC
A HISTORY MAJOR
FROM BARRINGTON, R.I.



Local Winter Term internship transcends the 'Bubble'

In light of recent discussions and debates over whether or not keeping J-Term is a good idea, I thought I'd write in to explain why I think J-Term is a valuable experience to have, and therefore why the College should keep its current schedule. For the month of January, I did an internship in Burlington with Legal Services Law Line of Vermont.

Law Line provides legal advice and help to the state's poor. Given the critical legal needs which poor people face, and the shortage of government programs in existence to help them, I think that Law Line serves a very important function in Vermont. One of my main tasks at Law Line was to conduct a survey to determine whether the help that

Law Line provided was adequate and appreciated by the people who called. The general consensus of the survey was that Law Line was extremely helpful and the people in need would have been far worse off had they conducted the legal proceedings on their own.

My experience at Law Line — including the survey I conducted — taught me many things about social interactions, Vermont, the legal problems of the poor and the difficulties of obtaining justice. I also realized how hard and unnerving it is to talk with someone on the phone that I've never met. For the most part, the people were friendly and complied with my requests. This was somewhat of a shock for me — being from a city, I do not

expect total strangers to be friendly and willing to help. Though this sounds like a generalization, those conversations helped illustrate the differences between living in a big city and living in a rural state. The people of Vermont seem to possess a certain sense of an attachment to their community and a commitment to the well-being of others.

Another significant thing I realized is that there is an extreme gap between the standard of living for the students attending Middlebury and the standard of living for many people who actually live in Vermont. Some of the people Law Line helps make as little as \$400 a month. Some were dealing with debts as large as \$40,000. Seeing this helped me understand how we, as students at

Middlebury, are privileged to be here. One of the things that stands out in my mind most is that many people I surveyed said they wished their level of education was different — many said they wished they had the education, tools and knowledge to avoid being in a bad situation in the first place.

Overall, my J-Term experience was a valuable one that helped me understand the extent of poverty in Vermont, certain injustices of our legal system and the importance of helping others. Because the experience was a positive one that made me realize the necessity of giving back to one's community, I have obtained an internship with a legal services center in Boston next summer to pursue further my interest in

legal services for the poor. I favor retaining the current J-Term format because it affords students multiple opportunities during their Middlebury career to experience a different world outside of Middlebury in an interactive setting.

If Middlebury were to reduce the number of mandatory J-Terms, fewer people would take advantage of going off campus and thus potentially miss the experience I had. Given how much this experience has made me appreciate the tremendous benefits that a Middlebury education confers, it seems totally ludicrous to consider getting rid of the valuable J-Term experience.

ELIZABETH JOHNSTON '06
A HISTORY AND PSYCHOLOGY DOUBLE MAJOR
FROM CHARLESTOWN, MASS.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Middlebury is a school of extroverts. One needs no further proof of this than the spectacular number of students who flock to social house parties during the sub-zero chill of blackest December.

However, during J-Term, it seems that there is something of a paradigm shift. Instead of heading out every Friday and Saturday, many Middlebury students choose to stay in. Instead of going off in search of large parties, students spend time with those who live in their buildings, often getting to know them very well.

I think that this is a splendid phenomenon. For me J-Term was not a factor in my decision to come to Middlebury, but it was probably the single most important factor in getting me to stay. Almost every single close friend I have here now I met and became friends with during the J-Term of my first year. It was a time to hang out and really get to know people.

I beg the administration and faculty to seriously consider this particular merit of J-Term as they proceed in their deliberations. The fact is that J-Term redeemed what for me was a lonely and unhappy first semester here solely by the great time I had and new friends I met. All of its other merits aside, getting rid of J-Term entirely would be a tremendous blow to students' ability to cultivate friendships and truly make the most of their time here.

Sincerely,
Andrew Carnabuchi '06

To the Editor:

Unfortunately, it seems that a relative lack of student input is allowing the administration and a large portion of the faculty to downplay or ignore a number of the diverse, and very valuable educational aspects that students have been able to benefit from at Middlebury College during Winter Term.

As one of their arguments for a two-semester academic plan, critics of J-Term have suggested that 14-week terms (in lieu of the current 12) will better prepare students for graduate studies after Middlebury. An additional six hours of class per course, the argument presumably has us believe, will allow us to be more competitive at a more advanced level. Does this imply that Middlebury graduates are performing at any less than their potential? I find this hard to believe. Alternatively, many seniors gain invaluable experience for graduate studies by being able to dedicate the entirety of January to thesis work. Few undergraduate environments provide such an opportunity for focused research and writing, activities that simply cannot have the same value when accompanied by a full semester's course load.

Experience in an environment more like graduate school gives students excellent preparation, and such an opportunity helps many students better understand their academic strengths and interests and their motivations for continuing their studies. This is but one of the many valuable academic strengths of J-Term that we are in danger of losing. I encourage other students to help demonstrate the importance of all of the other benefits — in particular those that are educational — to the administration and faculty, so we can retain a large part of what makes Middlebury unique.

Sincerely,
Ben Spitz '04

The Middlebury Campus

**INVITES YOU TO PICK UP FREE COPIES OF THE PAPER
AT THE FOLLOWING ON-CAMPUS LOCATIONS:**

MCCULLOUGH MAIL ROOM

THE GRILLE

(LOWER LOBBY)

MEMORIAL FIELD HOUSE

(LOBBY)

PROCTOR DINING HALL

ROSS DINING HALL

HAMLIN DINING HALL

BICENTENNIAL HALL

(3RD FLOOR ENTRANCE)

STARR LIBRARY

VOTER HALL

CFA REHEARSALS CAFÉ

TWILIGHT HALL

THE PAPER IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT A NUMBER OF LOCATIONS AROUND TOWN,
INCLUDING **SHAWS, THE BLUE HEN (FORMERLY BABA'S), TULLY & MARIE'S,**
THE MIDDLEBURY INN AND THE CO-OP.

Individuals and offices that require extra copies of *The Middlebury Campus* should write to campusbiz@middlebury.edu to make arrangements for delivery. Please include the issue date you need and the number of copies you require.

The paper is also available online at www.middleburycampus.com. Please visit our newly redesigned website and register to receive the weekly headlines via e-mail.

features

12

DIVING INTO DIVERSITY

AAA AND DMC PLAN PACKED SCHEDULE TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY

13

STUCK ON NALGENE

A PASSION FOR DESIGNER BOTTLES

14

BUBBLE BURSTERS IN MALAWI AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, J-TERM IS RIFE WITH SOCIAL CHANGE

15

RED CARPET GLITZ

STUDENT'S PLAY DEBUTS OFF-BROADWAY

AAA confronts stereotypes

Screening, lectures and symposium mark Black History Month, seek to rouse student body interest in black history and culture

By Mallika Rao
STAFF WRITER

This year's celebration of Black History Month kicked off Thursday, Feb. 12, with a full weekend launched and funded by the African American Alliance (AAA). President Crystal Belle '04, Vice President Brandy Perry '04 and other members of the AAA board oversaw each of the four events.

The celebration began on Thursday at Wright Theater. Nilaja Sun, a New Yorker of both Puerto Rican and African-American descent, performed a one-woman show exploring issues of race and gender.

Set in an urban environment, the act followed threads of Sun's own life to realistically echo the dynamics of life in a multicultural city.

She established a sense of range by shifting seamlessly from three different personas within the one performance (see page 18 for story).

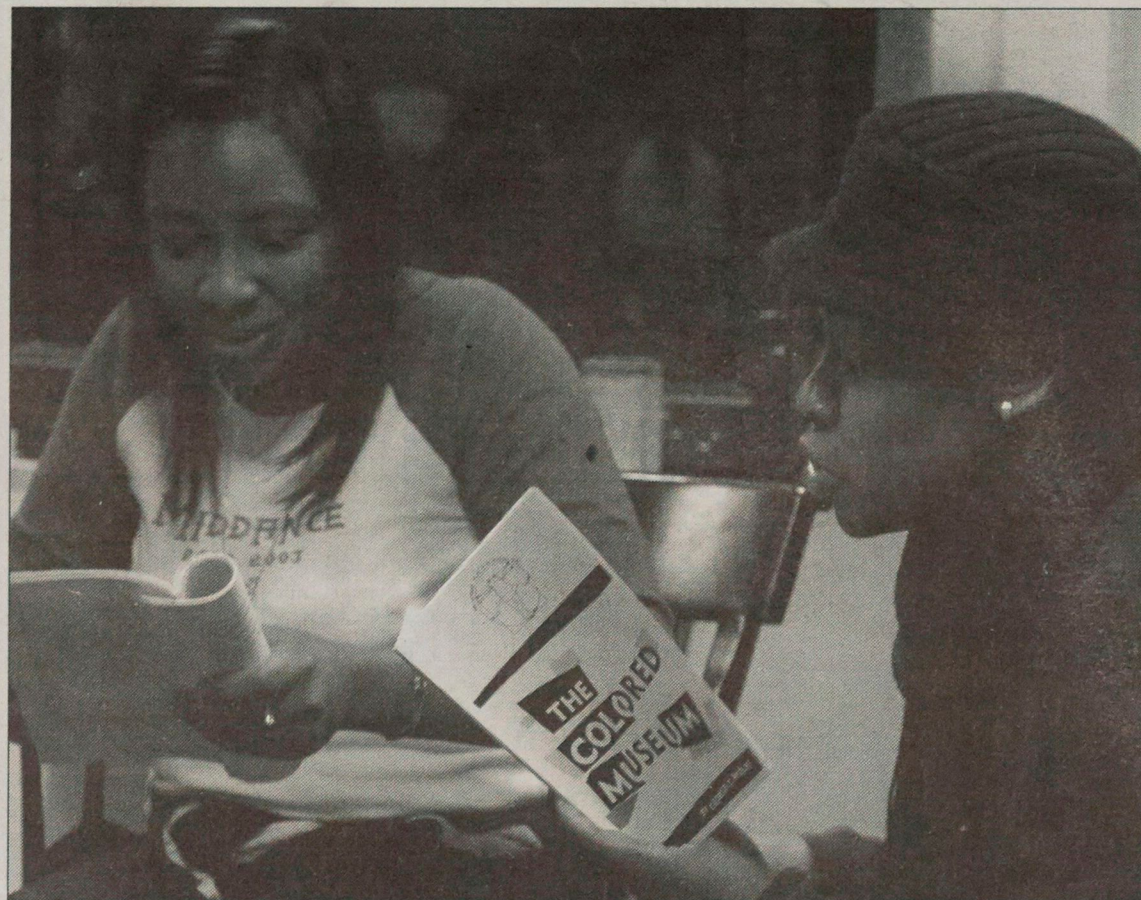
Friday's focus was discussion-oriented, with a lecture by Associate Professor of History Bill Hart followed by a debate forum led by Belle. Hart's lecture, entitled "What's Love Got To Do With It: Blaxploitation Films of the 1970s," lasted a little over an hour and set the grounding for Sunday's subsequent screening of "Shaft." He explained the phenomenon of Blaxploitation — the underlying idea of asserting stereotypes in order to negate them.

The subsequent forum, moderated by Belle, centered on hip-hop. More specifically, it tackled the question of whether or not Eminem can be termed a racist. Belle estimated a crowd of around 25 at Hart's lecture and about twice as many at the hip-hop forum.

The screening of the original version of "Shaft" on Sunday initiated the month-long series of blaxploitation films organized by the AAA board.

"Foxy Brown," to be shown next Friday at 8 p.m., and "The Mack" are scheduled for the following two weekends. Both will be shown in Room 216 of Bicentennial Hall.

With events spanning February



Albert Bitici

Black History Kick-Off: Students prepare for this Thursday's performance of the "The Colored Museum."

Belle hopes the campus will take the opportunity to genuinely "celebrate throughout the month."

AAA has not offered a film series in the recent past, and this year's choice of blaxploitation films, much

ous with the amount of people who come to our events that enough people just aren't aware. Or they may be aware and just not willing to participate in it."

2004 marks the first year

2004 marks the first year AAA's celebration of Black History Month has claimed a spot, more importantly the top spot, on the Middlebury college homepage.

like the films themselves, stems from a conscious effort to present a radical message. The general feeling among members of the AAA board is one of concern over a lack of campus-wide attendance at events such as these. Their hope was that a medium as relevant and interesting as this film series might incite students to attend in greater number.

As Perry observed, "It's obvi-

AAA's celebration of Black History Month has claimed a spot, more importantly the top spot, on the Middlebury College homepage. Perry asserted that "the school itself, Distinguished Men of Color and we here at AAA publicize. It's not that. It's just students who don't want to participate."

Belle went so far as to point out that students aren't especially

motivated to come "unless there's food." She explained that "unfortunately students would rather see Otter Nonsense than a blaxploitation film."

However, both Belle and Perry remain motivated to continue these attempts to engage campus participation, and indeed are optimistic about the future of Black History Month at Middlebury.

To Perry, endeavors like these are "successful in and of themselves. It doesn't matter if one person comes out or 25. It should always happen."

With AAA's current attitude, it will. The board willingly draws funds out of its annual budget to attract the guest artists and lecturers necessary to put on such a weekend.

Many of the attendees at the events are AAA members, or friends of members. Belle and Perry hope their persistence will result in higher attendance by the greater campus community at this month's upcoming films.

Catching the Celebration

WHAT TO LOOK FOR THIS WEEKEND

THURSDAY	7 p.m. Distinguished Men of Color (DMC) Symposium 2004: "The Harlem Renaissance and African-American Contributions to the Arts": Jazz Music	FRIDAY	4:30 p.m. DMC Symposium 2004: Panel Discussion: "African-American Contributions in Music, Visual Arts, and Literature to the Harlem Renaissance" with Professors Bill Hart, William Nash and Vermonja Alston.	SATURDAY	12 noon DMC Symposium 2004: Harlem Renaissance Cultural Display
	<i>The JuiceBar Stage, McCullough Student Center</i>		<i>Coltrane Lounge, Adirondack House. Dinner will immediately follow the panel.</i>		<i>McCullough Social Space, McCullough Student Center</i>
THURSDAY	9 p.m. Staged Reading: "The Colored Museum", George C. Wolfe	FRIDAY	8 p.m. AAA Blaxploitation Film Screening: "The Mack"	SATURDAY	8 p.m. DMC Symposium 2004: Def Poetry Show featuring Lemon, Abyss and Vanessa Hiday
	<i>The JuiceBar Stage, McCullough Student Center</i>		<i>Bicentennial Hall 216</i>		<i>McCullough Social Space, McCullough Student Center</i>

Drink Up

Investigation uncovers the top Nalgene stickers on campus



4. "In-N-Out Burger"

The "In-N-Out": This sticker is often seen on water bottles of students representing the "west side." A fast-food restaurant found exclusively in the state of California, it cooks up a surprisingly quality burger. So next time you order a double-double, make sure to ask for a sticker — they're free.



3. NOLS

The courses run by the National Outdoor Leadership School can be strenuous and physically challenging. That is why it is important to let other students know that you have completed such a course. The Nalgene also can represent one's status as a "true outdoorsman," and there is no better way to show off that image than with a NOLS sticker.



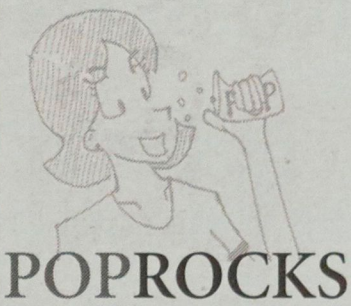
2. MIDD

Representing the college. Like the VT sticker, you want other people to know where you go to school and that you are damn proud to go there. A lot of people have this sticker around campus, but once you get out of the Middlebury bubble, that sticker carries a lot more weight.

1. Alpine Shop

The Alpine shop's "Ride today, work tomorrow". The motto of J-term. This sticker, and its snowboarding and skiing counterparts is the most popular one of campus because it resonates with most the student body. And it is easy to get because the store is right in town. Ski resorts and other snowboard/skiing companies were on people's bottles, but this sticker embodies the bliss of skiing.

— DAN BERKMAN



POPROCKS

BY LANFORD BEARD

Democracy is delicious. Lest ye think I'm moving from Pop Rocks to PoliSci, let me qualify that statement with my true intention, which is, of course, to unabashedly praise "American Idol."

Some immediate similarities between political elections and "Idol" come to mind — problematic recounts on the big night, angry protestations in the wake of a "rigged" election and an underpinning desire to pick the most talented, charming and scandal-free candidate.

In today's media-centric times, we don't just want to see drama, we want to be a part of it. With the advent of reality television, America can have our cash cow and eat it too.

Though, admittedly, the competition does not always spell immediate success. Case in point, the Guarini Debacle, in which first season runner-up Justin Guarini lost his cool, his reputation and his record deal. But three out of four ain't bad, and Ruben, Kelly and Clay have all taken the "Idol" franchise to the bank three or four times over.

It appears that choosing the next American Idol is one of the truest democratic processes that we have left. While voter turnout continues to drop in presidential elections, the "Idol" media storm motivates people to endure busy signals to vote thousands of times for their favorite contestant's rendition of Neil Sedaka's "Solitaire." (For the record, the contest in question was Season Two's runner-up Clay Aiken, who brought Sedaka to tears on national television.)

To be even more frank, where else could people with names like Jesus (pronounced like Gee-zus, not "Hey Zeus!"), Fantasia and Tiara be taken this seriously?

As I write this column, the second group of eight hopefuls is furiously preparing songs for Tuesday's showing which, with any luck, will not include "Save the Best for Last," "Careless Whisper" or another ear-bleeding arrangement of "Wind Beneath My Wings." When the column has been published, six of those dynamos will have exited the Coca-Cola Red Room with broken dreams and shattered hearts. But only after they have been subject to a public tongue lashing from Simon Cowell and thrown to the lion's den of America's flippant affections.

Among this year's finalists are singers with looks, singers with talent and, if we are lucky, singers with looks and talent.

So, in this, the third season of "AI," I encourage you as readers and connoisseurs of popular culture to embrace the democratic spirit and to appreciate the real meaning of "Rock the Vote."

Belt out some Bee Gees tunes while you're at it. Your ego will be safe while Simon Cowell is busy for the next couple of months.

Stargazing with Professor Wolfson

By Abigail Mitchell
STAFF WRITER

Ever wondered how Rich Wolfson, professor of physics and resident star sleuth takes his coffee? Or what's with the CO2 powered wagon he rides in for introductory classes? The Campus recently caught up with the 28-year veteran of Middlebury.

The Campus: What's so romantic about stars?

Wolfson: We're made of them! All the elements except hydrogen and helium — including carbon, oxygen and others essential for life — were produced in long-gone stars that exploded and spewed their stuff into interstellar space. Much later, Sun, Earth and the rest of the solar system condensed from such material.

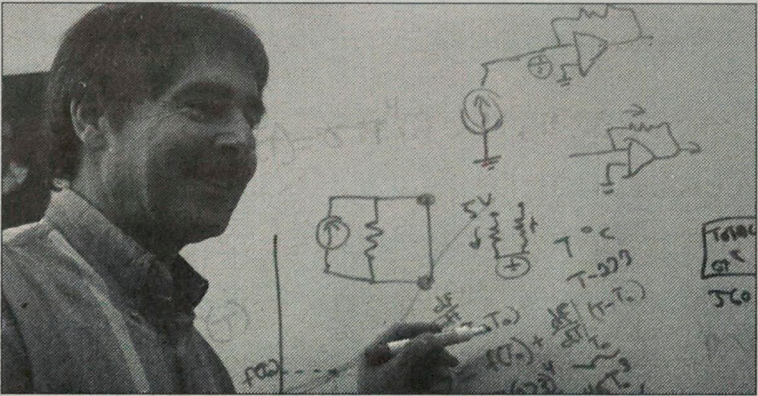
The Campus: Have you always been a college professor?

Wolfson: No, I got my masters degree [in environmental studies] and then taught high school for two years before getting my Ph.D. in physics. I also taught swimming and life saving for 12 years. Both of those experiences gave me the fundamentals for teaching.

The Campus: Where did you grow up?

Wolfson: I was born in San Francisco, but grew up in Worcester, Mass.

The Campus: Who has been the



Albert Bitici

Professor Richard Wolfson has his craft down to a science.

greatest inspiration to you, either personally or professionally?

Wolfson: When I was younger I admired Thoreau, Bertrand Russell and William O' Douglas, among others. Now, I don't necessarily have one person whom I look up to or seek to emulate in all ways. I identify with myself more and recognize my ability to carve out my own life — something that's easier to do professionally at a place like Middlebury than at a big university.

The Campus: How does a physicist look at the world differently than someone in the humanities?

Wolfson: I feel like a physicist has a finer appreciation for the physical workings of the world. Some people think that by breaking down things like we physicists do, we are deflating the wonder and appreciation

of the universe, but I think just the opposite. My wonder increases as I understand more of the workings of nature.

The Campus: What's with the wagon?

Wolfson: The one in the picture on my door? This is the physics department's rocket-powered wagon, propelled by a CO2 fire extinguisher and ridden at great peril to the rider (we wear a hard hat). Bob Prigo, of physics and teacher education, introduced it to Middlebury. All of us who teach the intro courses get to ride it.

The Campus: Do you believe in God?

Wolfson: Actually, I am a very religious person. I'm one of the founders of the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Middlebury,

and I remain very active in this church. But I don't think I believe in God. We Unitarian Universalists don't subscribe to any particular religious dogma, although we do share a set of general principles that, among other things, affirm the worth and dignity of every human being and the interdependent web of nature. My religion and my science are very close — each affirms the other.

The Campus: How do you take your coffee?

Wolfson: I don't. I drink tea — real, black tea, strong, with honey or without. Spent a sabbatical in Scotland and have been drinking high-quality tea in large quantities ever since.

The Campus: Do you think the sciences will ever combine to create one "theory of everything?"

Wolfson: I think physics will converge on a more coherent theory. It won't explain everything but some of the disparate areas of physics will unify. I don't think we could ever really come at a theory of everything because very complex structures like the human brain, although based in fundamental physical principles, may be too complex for a reductionist description to result in meaningful understanding. I think that what is remarkable though is how simple basic building blocks ... can create such complexities as the mind and consciousness.

LOSER: CLASSES HAVE TRULY BEGUN	It feels like Friday night, but when you wake up it's Friday all over again.	WINNERS & LOSERS	LOSER: ECONOMY BEER	One of the first and last truly community-oriented animals — just vi- sualize a prairie dog town as you struggle through classes brim- ming with brown- nosers.
Pining for those intro days of yore? Seems like no matter how much we pay for our education, we're still out to learn as little as possible.	WINNER: THIRSTY THURSDAYS		Already tired of beer- flavored water and bargain bubbles? Re- member, it takes you seven Busch to get buzzed at 25 cents a can, and two Heinek- en at \$1.20 per bottle for the same effect.	WINNER: PRAIRIE DOGS

NO SKIS IN SIGHT: J-TERM AWAY FROM MIDDLEBURY

The Kerry Cause

Chris Shields '04 spent his Winter Term in Dover, N.H., and Newcastle, Del., volunteering for John Kerry's winning primary campaign. He discusses some highlights of the experience.

The Campus: Tell us a bit about the people you met, including the center of democratic excitement himself.

Shields: Two of the most famous people I met were Jean and Billy Shaheens, the power couple of New Hampshire politics, and her being the ex-governor. I also of course met Kerry himself, Joe Biden (senator from Delaware) and a guy named Bill who was in the office every day — a retired postal worker on his 12th presidential campaign. Not to mention the fact that he was the coolest guy ever. As for the “little people,” there was Rachel, a 12-year-old home-schooled girl who came into the office at least three days a week to happily make signs or the like. Then there was this guy, Jack, from London, who came over to the U.S. for three weeks just to volunteer his time during his “gap year.” And by the way, who comes over from a foreign country just to work on a campaign?

The Campus: Any mishaps you care to talk about?

Shields: On Election Day I was in charge of one of the wards. Well, what happened was that I ended up driving a bunch of elderly people to the wrong polling location. To have a bunch of 80-something-year-olds with their walkers, going up a few flights of stairs all in the name of voting, to then have them tell me that I went to the wrong location wasn't exactly ideal. On the bright side, they were in pretty good spirits about it. Furthermore, when I was in Delaware, we closed a few doors to different storage rooms when a news crew slipped into the office, and accidentally locked ourselves out. I ended up having to climb through the ceiling from the office next-door so that I could drop in and unlock the door.

The Campus: What did you take away from the experience?

Shields: It was a really inspiring experience. Not really because of what I was doing as much as who I was with. To see all of these people dedicate their time towards the campaign was simply amazing, especially towards the end. People would even take a weekend off and drive up from New York or Philadelphia just to sit and make phone calls for two days. No one seemed like a graduating senior searching for a job in politics — they were working on the campaign simply because they believed in John and believed in democracy. Furthermore, on the election night itself, winning New Hampshire was the best feeling that I have ever had and probably was the best night of my life.

The Campus: Any thoughts on J-Term itself?

Shields: To do away with J-Term would be a great loss not only to the individual students who choose to pursue unique paths, but also to the entire community of Middlebury.

From Malawi To Those Lilongwe Nights

By Abbie Beane
FEATURES EDITOR

For some, J-Term is simply an opportunity for relaxation, a set-back in the fight against alcoholism or a seminar in ski bumming. Yet for others, it's a chance to start the journey down a true career path, focus on one particular subject area that may fall outside of one's major, experience personal growth, learn outside of the traditional academic environment, explore foreign cultures or volunteer for a worthy cause.

Out of the approximately 100 students who experienced J-Term beyond the College limits last month, many did exactly that. One particularly interesting story belongs to those who worked with a non-governmental Organization (NGO) in Malawi, Africa, called World Camp for Kids. The cast of characters includes Peter Goff '05, Price Massey '06, Joy Blosier '06, Erin Zolnick '06 and Charles Logan '06, who volunteered in primary schools surrounding the capital of Lilongwe, teaching about HIV/AIDS education and environmental issues such as deforestation and soil erosion. Students visited seven different schools in the area to teach three-day intensive curricula on the truth about contracting and preventing HIV. In addition, they fielded questions about the virus.

Based out of an “extraordinary house in Lilongwe,” as described by Zolnick, the students also visited the resplendent shores of Lake Malawi and travel to South Luangwa National Park in Zambia for a safari during their off time.

Zolnick said she could spend hours describing all of the intriguing people the group encountered along the way. “At all of the schools, we worked with native translators from the African Bible College within Lilongwe. I got to know one of the translators, who was an amazing and motivating person sporting the brightest smile I've ever seen,” she explained.

Massey adds that the youth of the Chisomo House were some of the most intelligent kids she had ever met.

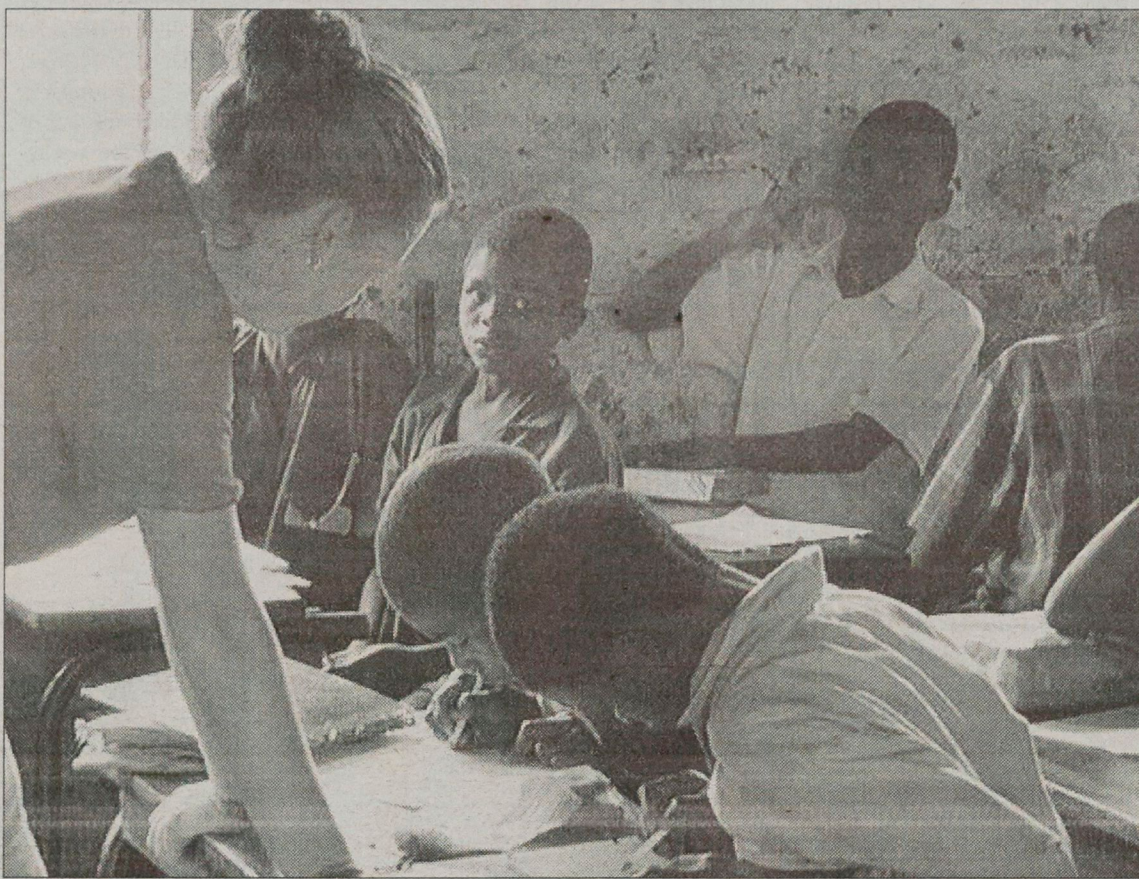
“I got the chance to go with four other MiddKids who I didn't really know before,” she said, “and that experience, which brought us all so close to each other, made me realize that there are so many amazing students here at Middlebury that I simply haven't had a chance to meet yet.”

Not every detail of the trip unfolded smoothly, however. Zolnick admits that one of the group's greatest talents was breaking everything from speakers to foosball tables. Goff even managed to break the windshield of their Land Rover. However, due to the many voltage problems they experienced in Africa, not every mishap can be blamed on these Middlebury pioneers.

Zolnick explained that she will remember almost everything about the trip, but the emphasis that the



Courtesy Photos



Malawians place on family was particularly striking. “While they have no material goods or luxuries,” says Zolnick, “they rely on family support for love and happiness. This contrast to the materialism of America and Middlebury blew me away.”

Massey points to her newfound ability to look past the tattered clothes and poor living conditions of the kids she worked with to discover that “true wealth lies in family, love and laughter.” She now believes that change must begin at the grassroots level when dealing with HIV and AIDS.

Zolnick proudly trumpeted the

Change must begin at the grassroots level when dealing with HIV and AIDS

— Price Massey '06

project as “one of the most amazing experience of [her] life. I'm glad that J-Term provided me with this opportunity to travel to a third-world country, meet amazing people and touch the lives of hundreds of kids,” she added.

Massey is also grateful that J-Term afforded her the opportunity to feed her own perspective while simultaneously nourishing others with knowledge. “J-Term gives students the wonderful opportunity to go out and try something new and exciting for just a few weeks,” she explains. “It is a vital part of what makes Middlebury so amazing in that it supports exploration in whatever capacity the student desires — from trying out a class he or she wouldn't normally take to traveling half way across the world to experience a life and culture so vastly different from our own.”

Feb premieres off Broadway

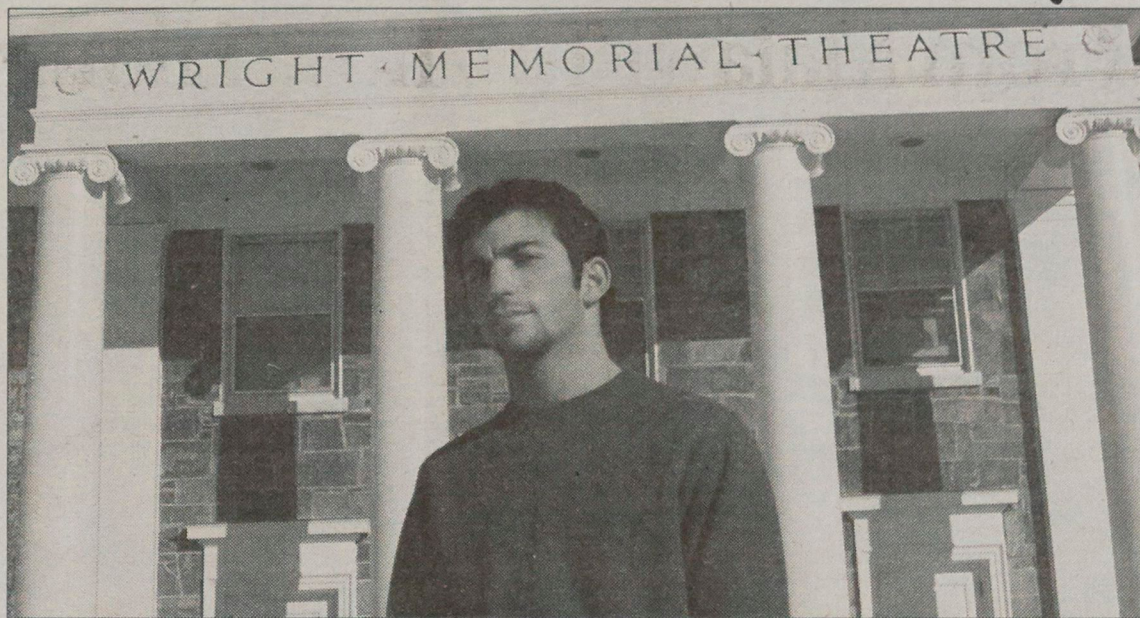
By David Barker
FEATURES EDITOR

Tucked into Greenwich Village on the corner of 38th and Commerce Street, The Cherry Lane Studio Theatre might be Off-Broadway but the playwrights who have jump started their careers there have quickly moved up to center stage. A collection of playbills from the past would show the likes of playwrights Samuel Beckett and Edward Albee debuting at Cherry Lane. On Feb. 4, first-year Feb Travis Baker added his name to the list.

"Thick," a one-act play about two high school boys confronting the suicide of a student they never met was just the latest in Baker's growing oeuvre. "I think of it as my homage to 'The Crucible,'" he said. Baker has been writing plays since the seventh grade with the productivity of Balzac. And like Balzac or a favorite playwright, William Shakespeare, Baker eschews the PC for pen and paper. "I associate the term writing with physically manipulating a pen," he said.

Before plays, it was horror stories. "I've always been a writer," he said. "I used to dictate stories to my parents in bed." Since a teacher at his New Jersey middle school suggested he apply to a contest for budding playwrights, he has written 60 plays ranging in length from 10 to 130 pages. While most students doodled in the notebook margin during class, Baker wrote plays. Oh, and the contest that Baker and his friend applied to in the seventh grade? They won.

Three years later, Baker sent his first batch of plays to the Young Playwrights Inc. National Young Playwrights Contest. The contest,



Albert Bitici

Broadway before Midd: First-year Feb Travis Baker's play, "Thick" debuted Off-Broadway on Feb. 4.

founded by musical master Stephen Sondheim in 1982, is open to all playwrights between the ages of eight and 18. Thousands of submissions arrive each year, and Baker has consistently been at the top. One of the three plays he sent made the top 25 in his sophomore year. But, Baker didn't stop there. He sent 27 plays to the contest over the next two years, and found the winner's circle his senior year with "Thick."

A phone call alerting him that he was one of 10 winners roused him from an afterschool nap. "I breathed a sigh of relief," he said. Indeed, Baker's high expectations prevented him from running around the block or blasting the "Hallelujah Chorus." "If after 30 plays I couldn't win, I was ready to retire," he said. Last November, while working in Los Angeles theaters during his Feb semester, Baker got another call. His play had been one of three selected

for production and a professional contract with Cherry Lane.

A prior commitment blunted his enthusiasm. Baker had to start college on the same day that his play was set to premiere in New York. "Middlebury firmly suggested that I not miss orientation," he said. So after helping cast the actors and watching previews of his play, Baker gave up the red carpet glitz of opening night for unloading boxes in his Battell double.

In the end, the pull of his play won out. After two days of square dancing and Feb bonding, Baker's parents whisked him down to Manhattan where he found a seat in the back of the theatre and watched two professional actors bring his words to life at a Saturday matinee. "It was so surreal that I had to laugh," he said. "There's nothing better than watching the audience's reactions."

The reactions have led to many

sold out showings of "Thick" and an article about Baker in *The New York Times*. The Young Playwrights festival continues until the Feb. 21 at the Cherry Lane. Meanwhile, Baker had to get back to the mountains of New England, which, as he said "are a pretty conducive environment for a writer to get work done."

On Monday, he took a seat in an Alfred Hitchcock English class. "It was a good, abrupt change," he said. He is also taking Acting I to better understand the people responsible for reading his scripts. He hopes to organize an independent theatre club similar to the one he formed in high school which would only run student directed and written plays.

If you stop by his room for his take on "Othello" or "Hamlet," both of which are referenced in "Thick," he'll probably be writing. Don't expect to hear the chatter of a keyboard.

WHAT'S WONG?



ALL THE ANSWERS TO YOUR PHILOSOPHICAL CONUNDRUMS

BY VENESSA WONG

As candle-lit restaurants in Middlebury booked to capacity and florists scuttled to arrange perfectly pink bouquets for that special evening, another group of people found themselves preparing for Valentine's Day in a less-romantic fashion — with their friends. Valentine's Day is conventionally thought of as an occasion to spend with one's significant other, but in the absence of such a person, most prefer not to sit idly alone in their rooms. Rather, the occasion arouses a desire to be with those that we care about, and love in a very different way. Our friendships prove to be another important manifestation of this emotion.

In his philosophical tractates, Aristotle discusses the virtue of love between friends. He ranks friendly love above erotic love, the kind with which Valentine's Day is commonly associated. He identifies erotic love as "a feeling" because of its fleetingness, and friendship "a state" because of its endurance. Aristotle says that friendship is "necessary for our life. For no one would chose to live without friends even if he had all the other goods." He finds the solitary life — that without friends — the least suitable for happy people. In this framework then, friendship is given highest importance. For the greater number of unattached Middlebury students, February 14th became an occasion to express this kind of friendly love of which Aristotle speaks. Bernard Geoxavier '07 boldly gave a rose to a special-someone, while not neglecting his Valentine-less friends, whom he also flowered (though platonically), "just to cheer them up."

Susanna Patty '06 spent most of Valentine's Day alone. "I need to be alone," she said calmly. It wasn't until late evening that she convened with friends to see the Vagina Monologues and strutted around campus in a festive red and black feather boa. For Patty, this day was not merely about romantic love. "Valentine's Day calls attention to life and love in many forms: love of nature, love of life in general, and love of friends. Love falls along a wide continuum of manifestations, not just sexual."

Ironically for William Boziuk '04, Valentine's Day marked the breakup with his girlfriend. "It was a really sucky Valentine's Day," Boziuk admitted. He and his friends arranged a "singles awareness dinner" to compensate. Boziuk identifies a major difference between friends and lovers, "Your love for your friends is less multifaceted, and you can love aspects of your friends without letting their negative qualities bother you. With a lover, everything concerns you — for better or for worse."

Thus, the importance of Aristotelian love between friends manifested strongly on Valentine's Day. Colin Penley '05 reminds us, "[Love] is about romantic love, familial love, and the love between friends... Valentine's Day is to celebrate the love in our live, not to be saddened over love that we are missing."

What's sex got to do with it, anyway?

By Claire M. L. Bourne
MANAGING EDITOR

Let's talk about sex. Everyone else is. Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" trumped news of George Bush's \$2.4 trillion budget request the day after the Super Bowl. Internet blogs heralded the news of a potential John Kerry sex scandal late last week. And Harvard recently approved a student-run magazine that will feature nude photographs of undergraduates and content focusing on sex and sexual issues at the university.

But Salt-N-Pepa sang about more than just the salacious details — "Let's talk about all the good things / And all the bad things that may be." And it seems like that's exactly what Virginia Logan, assistant director of the College's Counseling and Human Relations Center, had in mind when she answered a student appeal for more dialogue about sex and relationships on campus.

Starting on Tuesday, the College will launch a series of six workshops tailor-made for students wishing to "explore and validate the whole spectrum of sexual expression," Logan says. Led by sexuality educator Ca-triona McHardy of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, session topics will run the gamut from how to talk about sex to sexual rights to the current options for sexual expression at Middlebury.

This third theme, in fact, was one of the driving forces behind the

series. "It is clear that students are not all satisfied with how the sexual culture at Middlebury exists. currently," says Wonnacott Commons CRA Freeman White '03, who does leadership work for the College's burgeoning Ally Group.

When the Allies held their first meeting of the school-year last fall, a number of the 40 people in attendance said they would like the College to sponsor discussion groups that focused on sexuality, gender and relationships. Many were dissatisfied with the College's social scene. Hooking up, they said, seemed like the only option.

"The goal is to make Middlebury College a healthy place," White explains. Healthy sex goes beyond safe sex, said organizers at a meeting last Friday. During the sessions, McHardy will tackle the challenge of how to bridge the physical and emotional aspects of romantic relationships.

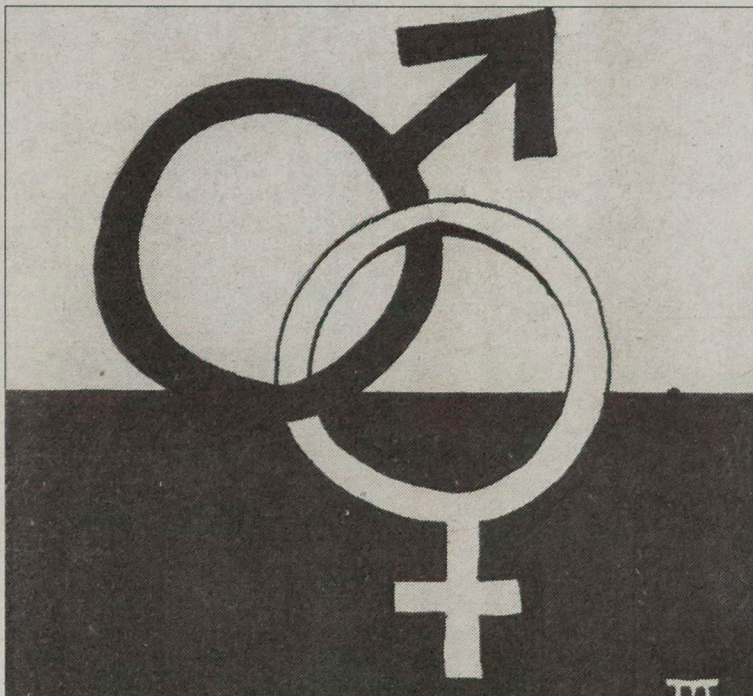
Although Logan anticipates a minimum of 50 participants at each session, some organizers worry that the concepts on the series' agenda — gender identity and sexual orientation, in particular — might scare some students off, or simply be too heavy going. "I don't think a lot of

students will attend just because a lot of Midd students don't attend anything if it's not entertainment," said Jaye Roseborough, executive director of the Career Services Office and one of the series' organizers.

The six-part series is as much about discussing and correcting misconceived notions about sexuality and gender as it is about establishing whether dating is dead. Logan says those who lobbied at the Ally Group meeting for more open discourse about sex and relationships at Middlebury "wanted it to include the whole range of sexual expression so that students could learn from each other." Roseborough also hopes for a diverse group of participants — both straight and GLBTQ students. "Learning about each other, especially about gay and lesbian relationships helps so much in reducing homophobia," she says.

Darcel Williams '06 was at last Friday's organizational meeting. "I'm aware of the on-going difficulties of being in a relationship and finding one's own sexuality," she says. "I hope a lot of students will attend and that when people show up, they are willing and ready to deal with 'real' issues that are usually hidden under the blankets, if you will."

Logan says workshop participants will each determine their own level of involvement and are not required to attend all six sessions. Workshops will be held every Tuesday in Hepburn Lounge from 7 to 9 p.m., starting Feb. 24.



arts

17
LANDSCAPIAN
SCULPTURE SHOW
ANDREA COHEN
MERGES NATURE AND
ARTIFICE

17
OFFAIR
GETTING THE
LOWDOWN ON DJ's
CLINEBURG AND IVES

18
AAA ONE-WOMAN
SHOW
NY NATIVE TAPS
SOCIAL ISSUES

19
IS IT ART?
KIDS AREN'T THE
ONLY ONES DRAWING
ON SIDEWALKS



Vlad Lodoaba

The company of "The Vagina Monologues" converses about the joys and tribulations of womanhood during a late performance Saturday night.

'Monologues' spread the love

Performance pays tribute to vaginas, raises cash for WomenSafe

By Kelsey Smith
STAFF WRITER

What would your vagina wear? An electrical shock device to keep unwanted strangers away? Or maybe a feather boa? If your vagina could talk, what would it say? Perhaps these questions seem like an invasion of privacy, but for me they were just a part of a Valentine's Day evening spent in a packed McCullough Social Space where fellow Middlebury College women verbally explored that all powerful "anatomical vacuum" of so very many names.

Five years ago a non-profit organization called V-Day was founded to spread the message of self-love, empowerment and acceptance embodied by Middlebury alumna Eve Ensler's '75 Obie Award-winning play, "The Vagina Monologues." V-Day seeks to raise and distribute funds to programs working to end violence against women and girls, both nationally and abroad. The Monologues were performed at Middlebury as part of the V-Day college campaign, an extension of V-Day that aims to raise money and awareness on college and university campuses around the world. Proceeds raised from Middlebury's performance benefit WomenSafe of Addison County.

The performance sponsored by Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM) sought to include a wide range of people. Those involved were also happy to be approached by Penelope, an all-male band, since the play has a reputation for making men rather uncomfortable. The set and lighting design were appropriate — nothing fancy, just enough to provide the actors with the necessary props, allowing the audience to focus on the variance in subject matter and delivery style. The monologues, directed by Becky Martin '04 and Marieka Peterson '04, portrayed both painful and humorous moments in an effort to remain positive while still exposing important topics such as rape, female genital mutilation and the abuse of women that is all too often a byproduct of warfare.

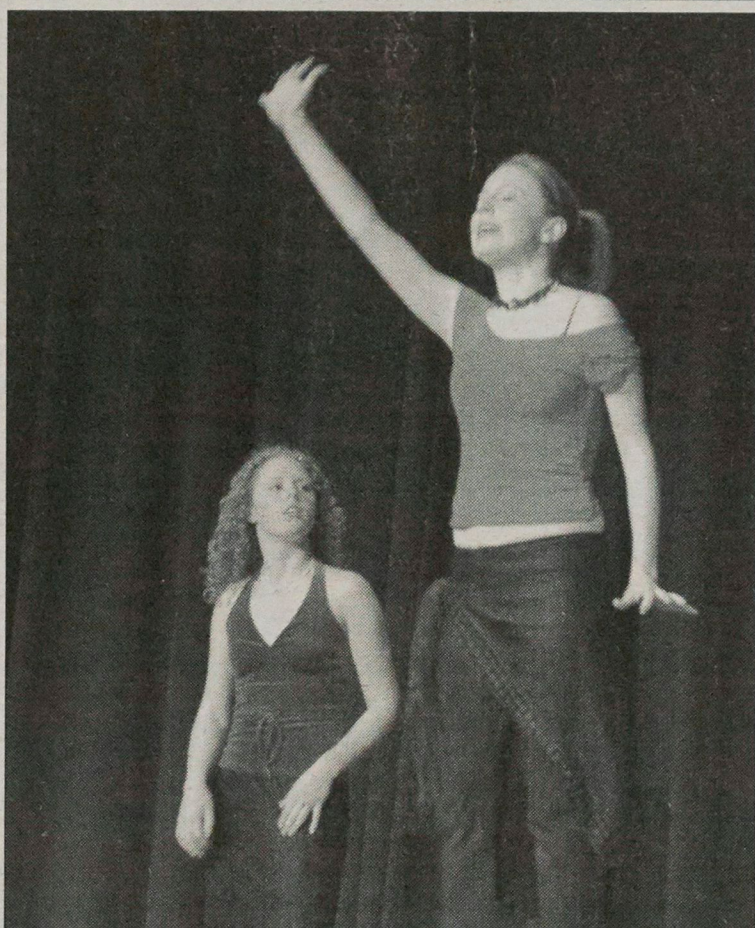
One example of a painfully funny monologue was the "Vagina Workshop," a piece that follows one woman on her journey from describing her vagina as a "black hole" to comparing it to a "proper English garden." Though endlessly amusing, it does carry a bittersweet message about the tendency to romanticize sexual relationships. The character spoke of the moment that she decided to take charge of her sexuality because she realized that no man was going to ride up on a white horse to "give me orgasms."

The performance also explored "Madonna/whore" complex. For example, in the monologue "The Flood," the audience witnessed a 72-year-old woman's painful encounter from many years ago with a boy who labeled her as the "stinky weird girl" because of her body's natural response to sexual pleasure. Audience members were meant to imagine that if the boy had had the same physical reaction, everything would have been fine — but because it was the woman who exhibited her excitement, she was immediately branded as abnormal and spends the rest of her life being scared of sex.

The monologue concerning a Bosnian rape camp survivor quickly reminded the audience why it is so important to reclaim the word vagina. The monologue spoke of a woman who endured men "...[taking] turns for seven days...smelling like feces and smoked meat, they left their dirty sperm inside me..." Ensler does not shy away from such difficult scenes — instead she opens them up for discussion as a means of coming to terms with the experience and reclaiming the part of yourself that is lost with rape.

Other segments were dedicated to "vagina facts" such as the outrageous verity that it is currently illegal to sell a vibrator yet legal to sell a gun in four U.S. states. "We have yet to hear of a mass murder committed with a vibrator," quipped Eliza Adler '04.5 on stage.

Peterson, a senior theater major, said she wanted people to realize that the beauty of the piece is how it can be what you need it to be. She said that as a first-year she couldn't imagine being a part of the at-times embarrassing performance.



Vlad Lodoaba

Michelle Albert '06 hits a high note (above). Meghan Nesmith '06 hails the vagina while Devin Wardell '06 looks on.

Landscape of a 3-D arcadia

Cohen synthesizes organic and man-made forms

By Joyce Mann
STAFF WRITER

Apian, which describes all things related to bees, emphasizes the synthetic nature of Andrea Cohen's art exhibition "Landscapian" currently on display until March 6 in the Johnson Memorial Building.

Just as bees generate honey from natural nectar in their hexagonal honeycombs, Cohen melds natural tree branches and waterfall images with man-made Styrofoam and manufactured wood to create a sweet collection of meaningful art pieces.

At first glance, the viewer sees a pile of stolen branches, Popsicle stick stacks that speak of too many visits to the ice-cream man and packing foam that looks as though it

The pieces in 'Landscapian' prompt expansive discussion of our rapidly interconnecting global society rather than restrictive conclusions.

were taken from a random speed delivery box.

None of the conventional rules of aesthetics have been applied — the Golden Mean is neither apparent in the random lengths of wood and wire nor in the circumferences of the holes drilled into the blue Styrofoam. The materials look cheap, as though desperately revived from a garbage pile. If you are not a lover of modern art, this looks like trash. If you are, you have to ask — is it really art?

Yes, Cohen uses prosaic media, resulting in pieces look almost inexcusably like jumble, but therein lies the deeper profundity of her artwork. Because she pulls us to the periphery between nicely finished manufactured goods and discarded, dead orifices, the viewer is forced to return to the junk piles of our daily existence — the garbage heap.

In every room, every home, every metropolis, there

exist hidden places in which the industrially manufactured artifices of our consumer-driven lives are abandoned. To mince no words, Cohen's structures look as if they come from this communal rejection pile, but this is precisely how they derive their meaning. As Cohen herself says, her artwork is "a place where nature and artifice have collapsed." That is, collapsed but not devoid of potential.

Because the artwork rconnotes the process of transformation by referring to garbage, it accomplishes exactly Cohen's intention. "Landscapian" truly "addresses the merging of nature and artifice by linking together natural materials like tree branches with synthetic material such as Styrofoam, vinyl and plastic."

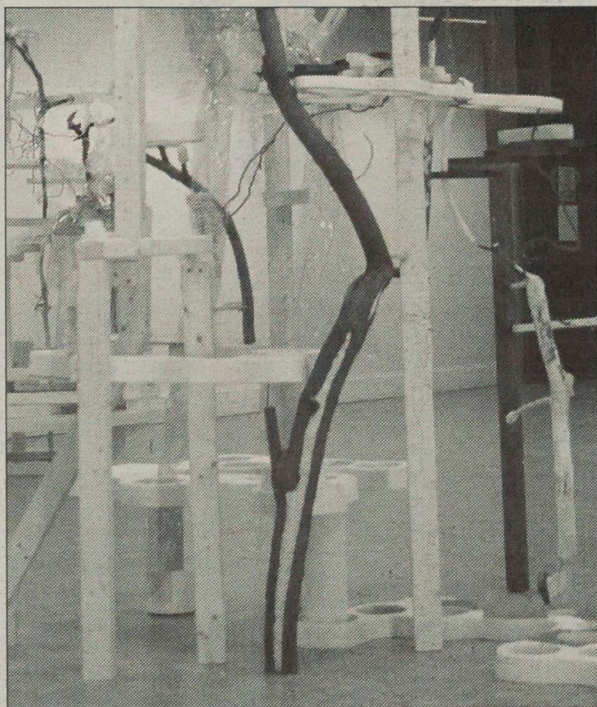
Most pieces consist of one brown natural tree branch standing erect as the central support of the entire structure, which is otherwise composed of lighter colored, manufactured wood pieces.

The effect is twofold. The uniformly rectangular wood pieces look like branches of a live tree, as, for example in "Tree Serenade." Conversely, the grainier central branch melds with the surrounding angular pieces to look like the Chrysler Building or the Eiffel Tower. This happens "The Falls of East Cadman."

Nothing conveys Cohen's notion of a confluence of "both nature and artifice," like the cotton plant in "Tree Serenade." Here, she uses a luminous pink metal wire as the piece's stem and base, which wraps around a bunch of standard cotton balls bought from the supermarket to make a surprisingly and somewhat eerily accurate imitation of a cotton plant.

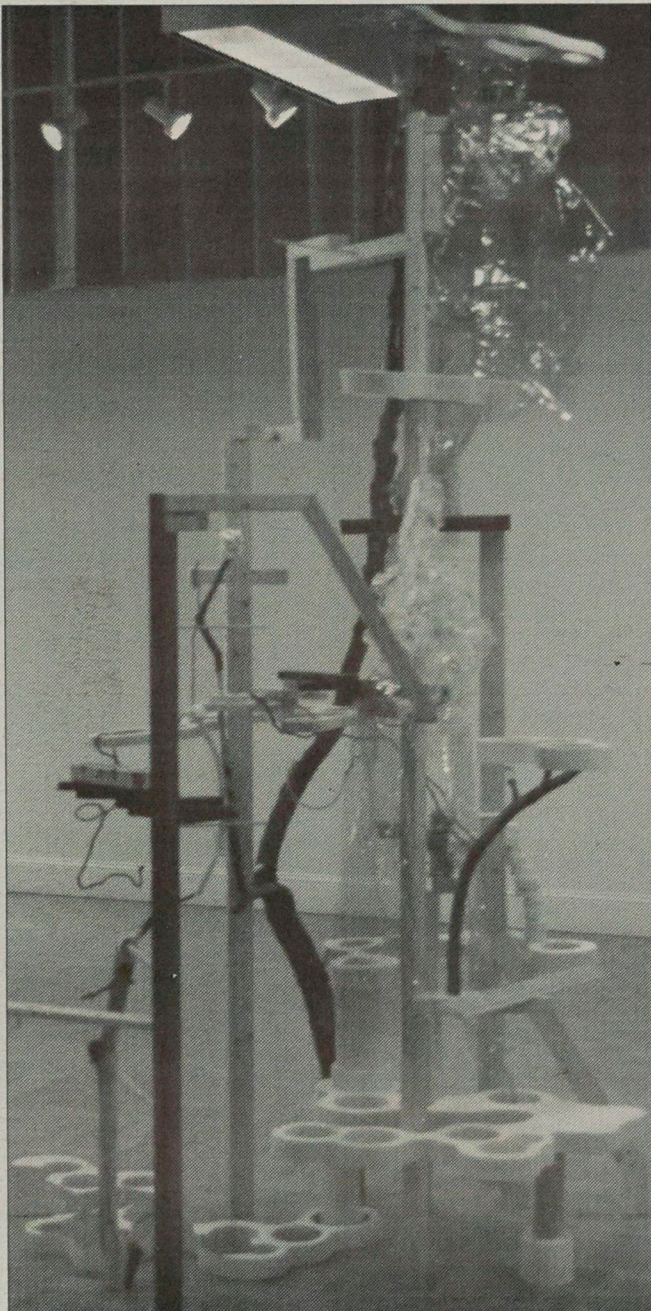
Cohen's artwork possesses the ability to morph. Inspired by nature in Chinese landscape paintings but also by the artificiality of her hometown Miami's botox parties, she produces compositions that resemble both shanshui — or mountain and water paintings — as well as factory-made products.

Hence, the pieces in "Landscapian" prompt expansive discussion of our rapidly interconnecting global society rather than restrictive conclusions. Cohen said of her artwork, "I'm choosing to embrace hope rather than cynicism and to explore open systems rather than closed." Like a beehive, Cohen's exhibition is generative, not definitive.



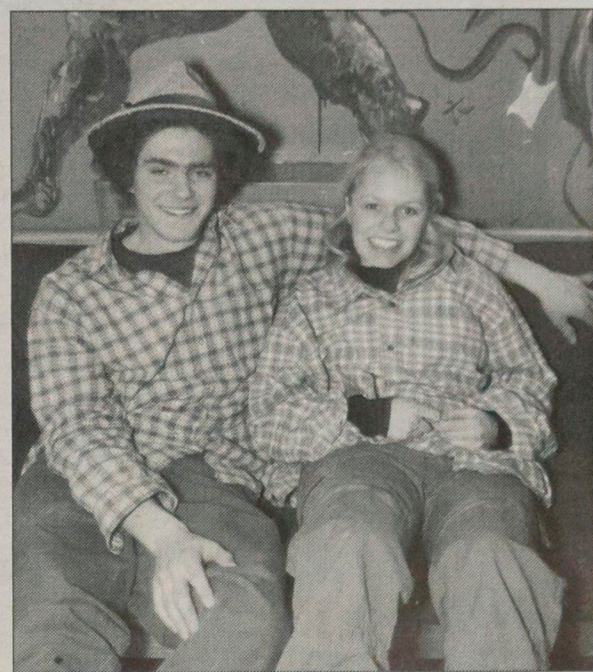
Cohen mixes natural and artificial materials, such as tree branches, Styrofoam, manufactured wood and plastic, to create monumental sculptures.

Photos by Albert Bitici



OFFFAIR

WITH MELISSA CLINEBURG & MIKE IVES



From bluegrass to world peace

NAME OF YOUR SHOW? Green Mountain Grass

SHOW'S TIME-SLOT? Friday mornings, 10:30-12:00

DESCRIBE THE TYPE OF MUSIC YOU PLAY. For fall semester and J-term, we stuck to bluegrass, but we're going to branch out this semester and play some more old-timey music and traditional country. Bluegrass was developed by Bill Monroe and others in the 1930s as a musical genre that combined Scotch-Irish and Appalachian folk music traditions to create a uniquely American and typically acoustic sound featuring tight harmonies and regimented solos.

WHY DO YOU PLAY THE MUSIC YOU DO? Any musical genre that includes more than an hour and a half's worth of songs devoted to trains should be respected. Not to mention, country has recently acquired a bad reputation, and we'd like to set things straight. We won't play what you usually hear on the radio — only the good stuff.

WHAT ALBUMS/ARTISTS ARE IN YOUR CD PLAYER RIGHT NOW? Melissa: Ralph Stanley's "Sunday Morning" and Steve Earle's "Train a Comin'." Mike: David Grisman's "Tone Poems I" and "The Legendary Joao Gilberto" (about the furthest thing from old-timey American).

WHAT BOOK IS ON YOUR BEDSIDE TABLE RIGHT NOW? Mike: Dr. Seuss' "Oh, The Places You'll Go"

BEST ALBUM OF ALL TIME? Melissa: Steve Earle, "Train a Comin'." Mike: CSNY, "So Far"

GREATEST MUSICAL TRIUMPH EVER? Melissa: When Mike and Bennet Koneski played "Happy Birthday" bluegrass-style on the air. Mike: Pickin' with Jamie Masefield

GREATEST MUSICAL TRAVESTY EVER? Melissa: Pop country. Mike: Rod Stewart

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE? Melissa: A southern drawl

FAVORITE CURSE WORD? Melissa: Oh my... Mike: ...It wouldn't be becoming of us to say.

CAFFEINATED SUBSTANCE OF CHOICE? Mike: Fair-trade coffee

PROCTOR, ROSS OR FREEMAN? Melissa: Proctor's close to the radio station... Mike: Agreed.

FAVORITE VIRTUE? Mike: Picking (on the mandolin)

FAVORITE VICE? Mike: Tendency to be blue and lonesome

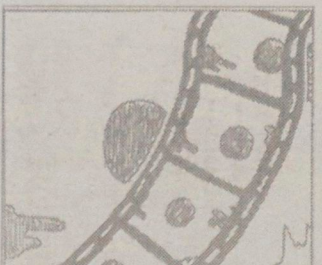
WHAT QUOTE DO YOU LIVE BY? Mike: "Tuning a mandolin is like achieving world peace — it's not really possible, but you have to try."

DO YOU SUFFER FROM ANY PHOBIAS? Melissa: Dead air. Mike: Minor triad harmonies.

WHICH WORD OR PHRASE DO YOU MOST OVERUSE? Mike: "That was a hot little number."

IN TEN YEARS, YOU WILL BE? Melissa: A Steve Earle groupie. Mike: Rehashing the same songs.

— ERIKA MERCER, ARTS EDITOR



THE REEL CRITIC

BY AARON STRUMWASSER

MOVIE | LOST IN TRANSLATION
DIRECTOR | SOPHIA COPPOLA
STARRING | BILL MURRAY & SCARLETT JOHANSSON

What would "Harold and Maude" be without the love affair? What would "Roman Holiday" be without the paparazzi? Take the edgy material out of a romance and you get an antiseptic fairy tale.

Director Sofia Coppola has accomplished just that with "Lost in Translation": she has made a movie in which the leads (played by Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson), separated by 30 years in age, have nothing to worry about except planning their next tryst. Blame it on Coppola, not God, but Coppola has failed even to make an entirely inoffensive film, depicting Tokyo as a pop-cultured-out Las Vegas. All the movie's laughs come at the expense of the language barrier and Coppola manages to depict Japanese stereotypes with egregious exactitude.

Yet the movie is somewhat tolerable, if only because of Bill Murray's downbeat, "how-did-I-get-here?" facial expressions. Murray plays Bob Harris, an American addicted to selling out and aware of his addiction. In the eyes of the bored, newlywed Charlotte (Scarlett Johansson), he is something of a guru. When Murray and Johansson first appear together on screen, inside a hotel elevator, it's platonic love at first sight. What follows is a solipsistic journey through a handful of hotel lounges and karaoke bars.

Throughout the film, Harris and Charlotte hardly even have to speak in order to communicate their kinship — a kinship of lost souls. Their relationship is so telepathically special that we feel compelled to forgive Coppola for the dialogue we *do* hear — seemingly written by Dr. Phil. What they see in each other, Coppola would like us to think, is a way out of superficiality. But Charlotte comes off like a lobotomized Franny Glass, Bob Harris like a slightly depressed, suntan-free George Hamilton.

At one point, as Murray and Johansson escort each other to their respective rooms, they scoff at a girl singing karaoke, and then they continue walking. Essentially, the film is one big scoff-fest at every facet of life best left alone. It shouldn't take a feature-length film to tell us that a bad karaoke singer is a cause for disdainful laughter, so why should we watch her? Worse, minutes before their dismissal of the karaoke girl, Bob and Charlotte, in astonishingly hypocritical fashion, sing karaoke, and seem to love it. I scoffed at their scoffing.

Ultimately, even though Coppola would like us to marvel at what could happen between two people instead of at what *does* happen, a filmmaker is obliged to make something happen, not to tease us with what she *could* make happen if working with a better premise. This is not to say that a love affair would save "Lost in Translation." Nor is it to say that "9 ½ Weeks" is a recommended alternative. But what good is a movie that ends (no, this is not a spoiler) with Harris whispering to Charlotte a line inaudible to the viewer? Will they meet again? Is a sequel on the way? If it's a meaningful line, Ms. Coppola, we deserve to hear it. If not, then don't expect us to write the script for you.

Nilaja Sun: one woman, many faces

By Zoey Burrows
STAFF WRITER

Sun demonstrates a few of her many expressive gestures in her one woman show at Wright Memorial Theatre.

"The longer your name, the more God loves you," "When we dance, God dances with us, because you know? He loves to get down!" and "My answering machine has become my best friend" are only three examples of the humor and wit actress Nilaja Sun brought to her show in Wright Theatre last Thursday evening. Sponsored by Middlebury College's African American Alliance (AAA), Black History Month got off to a powerful start with New York native Nilaja Sun's one-woman show.

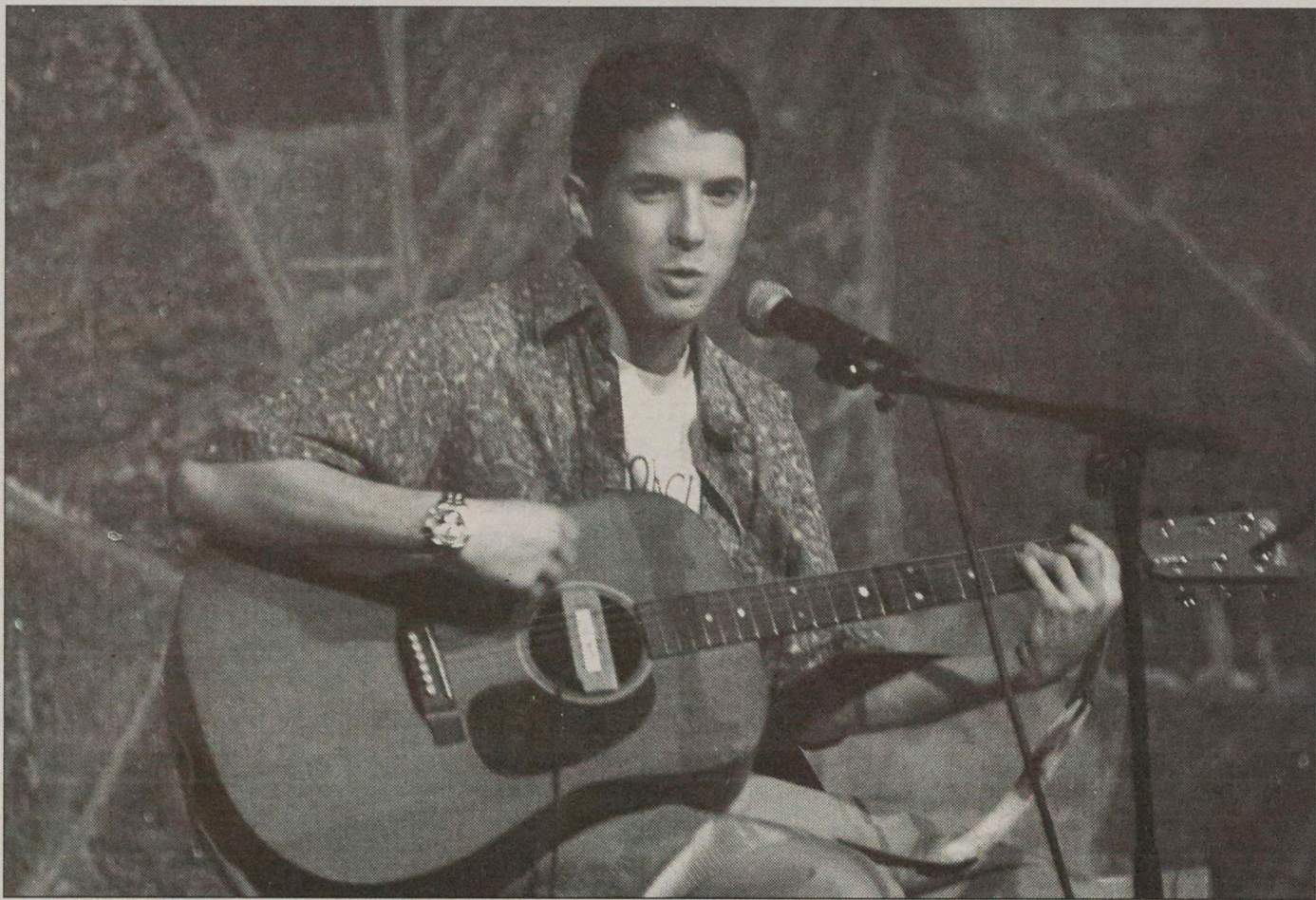
Crystal Belle '04 opened the event, explaining that AAA members expressed a desire for more female talent like the one-woman show she remembers from her freshman year. After Belle's brief introduction, Sun dove right in, performing alone on the stage for over an hour with only pre-recorded voice interludes and sounds for accompaniment. Entitled "Mixtures," the show was a compilation of three distinct solo pieces called "Black and Blue," "Insufficient Fare" and "September 11th." She began writing the pieces with grants received from Amherst College in 2000. Though the performance consisted of numerous vignettes, there was an overall continuity that spoke to the hard realities of everyday life. Sun had the audience laughing uncontrollably for the first half of the show, but by the end audience members were more solemn as she addressed the sobering realities of 9/11, homeless people on the subway ride home and the struggle to make ends meet as an artist in New York City.

Though small and wiry, Sun possesses an commanding presence on stage. The show was autobiographical in tone and proved entertaining to watch for its content and Sun's physical and vocal mimicry. Most impressive were Sun's accents and facial expressions and her ability to jump back and forth between different characters. Her impersonation of grandfatherly Mr. Eckhart was not only compelling for her deep, trembling voice but primarily for her droopy facial expression, which really *did* look like that of an elderly man.

The daughter of an African-American father and a Puerto Rican mother, Sun grew up on the lower East Side of Manhattan and first discovered her talent for acting and dance at a summer camp, where she played Smurfette in "The Smurfs," as depicted in "Black and Blue." An alumna of Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Penn., Sun wrote her first one-woman show during a senior year playwriting class and remembers being criticized because it was only a one-person show.

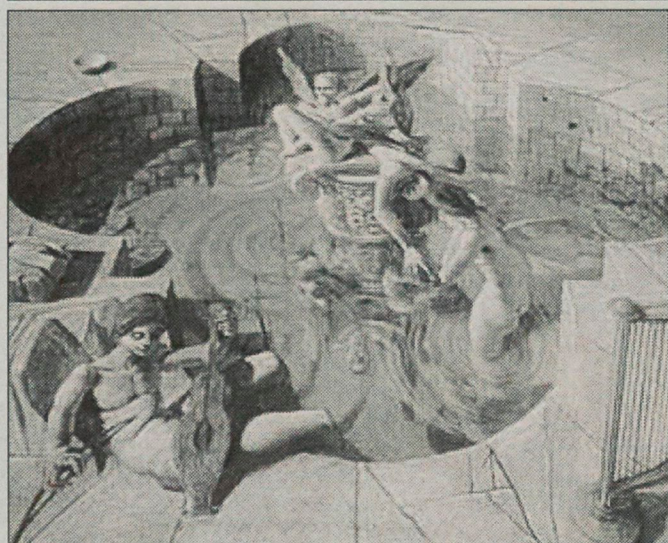
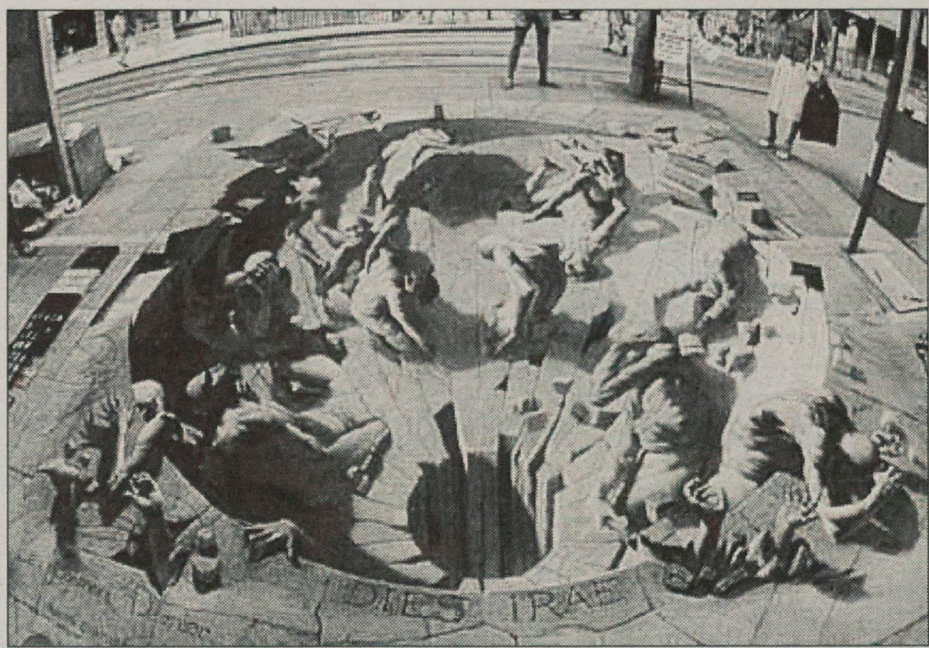
Sun has ignored this criticism and made a name for her one-woman shows in New York City, where she performs off-Broadway, and at PS 122. She is also affiliated with the New World Theatre, the multiracial, multicultural theatre based at the Massachusetts Fine Arts Center in Amherst. Most recently she won the Princess Grace Award, a fellowship funded by Princess Grace of Monaco who was deeply committed to helping young aspiring artists realize their career goals. She is using the fellowship to write a new one-woman show that will also address the hardships of everyday life.

HART STRINGS



Albert Bitici

Serenading diners a the Grille last Thursday, Jason Lockhart '05 plays a mix of original songs and classic covers, ranging from The Dave Matthews Band to Oasis. Lockhart and his a cappella group "Stuck in the Middle" will travel to Wesleyan University on Saturday, Feb. 21, to compete in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella. The group will take on a cappella programs from the University of Vermont, Yale University, Bates College, Syracuse University and Wesleyan University.



Chalkster Kurt Wenner composes mind-boggling masterpieces on streets in Geneva, Switzerland (above, left), and Mantova, Italy (above, right). "Muses" (below, left) was created on Lucerne, Switzerland, pavement. Chalk art is so realistic that it tricks the spectator's eye.

is it art?

A LOOK AT THOSE WHO DARE TO STRETCH THE CREATIVE LIMITS

Pedestrian art. I mean it literally — art at your feet. Sidewalk chalk art has surfaced in the streets and plazas in the towns and cities throughout Europe and the United States. I'm not talking about those Sunday-afternoon, let's-play-with-chalk juvenile images. Today artists are rendering objects and spaces with eye-fooling precision on pavement with chalk.

The subject matters run the gamut from animals and insects to electronics and advertisements, from monumental portraits and still-lives to cityscapes and landscapes.

The most intriguing subjects, however, are the creations that illustrate the playful and intellectual nature of *trompe l'oeil* — the artistic ability to depict an object so exactly as to make it appear real. Artists craft elaborate scenes on pavement that incorporate people. The two-dimensional representations require viewers to do a double take because of the apparent realism. The chalk paintings, both witty and serious, represent the games artists play with space and action. They give an artistic vision that is essentially whole and their scenes are conceived to feel complete.

From bottomless pits to operatic stages to frozen lakes and swimming pools, the images are monumental and so life-like that street performers often accompany them. The performers interact with the pieces — they jump into the pools, shake hands with the portraits or simply serve as the other side of the reflecting mirror.

According to the Kansas City Street Painting Festival, painting the street is ancient art form that originated in 16th-century Western Europe when artists would create, in chalk, reproductions of Madonna

icons for traditional religious and folk festivals.

These traveling artists made their living from coins thrown onto or next to their drawings in homage to the image and to the skill of the artist.

Four hundred years later sidewalk chalk artistry resurfaced during World War II, when many masterpieces were seized or destroyed, and artists could not afford canvas for new creations.

Kurt Wenner, a New York City-based street artist, is recognized worldwide for his sidewalk art. His piece "Reflections," displayed in Mantova, Italy, demonstrates the *trompe l'oeil* concept of pavement

art. Four actors, who are dressed in Renaissance garments, are reflected in an antiquated pool of water. Two of the performers rest their arms on a column-like stand that is similarly shown in the water. The interactive space represents the heightened form of illusionism that pervades the style.

Chalk isn't a durable marker, and the impermanence of the renderings is always an issue.

Actions are taken to preserve the work but the artists' efforts still disappear quickly. Depending on the conditions and other variables, they can last anywhere from a couple of days to more than a year. Most street painters will tell you that the art form

is a performance art, meaning, where the process of creating the work is the most important aspect. These artists enjoy the rare opportunity of creating their masterpieces in front of an audience, which makes photographic documentation not so bad.

These gifts in the midst of urban environments are a delight to see. The drawings resemble ice sculptures and intricate desserts, made to exist and to be enjoyed for only a moment before being consumed by time and change. So next time you're roaming the streets, watch out below — you may be trampling over a masterpiece!

— CHRIS GROSSO, ARTS EDITOR



Look the artist has a twin! This chalkster depicts himself so exactly that his picture on pavement appears to be a three-dimensional replica.

LITERARY PICKS

BY EDWARD PICKERING

TITLE
MOON TIGER

AUTHOR

PENELOPE LIVELY

PUBLICATION DATE

1987

Penelope Lively won the prestigious Booker Prize in 1987 for "Moon Tiger," a novel in which an elderly woman looks back on seven-odd decades of life from the confines of a hospital bed.

The novel investigates the relation between personal memory and history, and the relation between past and present.

Claudia Hampton, the novel's main narrator, has come to the end of her life. She lies dying in a London hospital bed, alone save for her memories and the occasional visits of a few relations. Claudia garnered fame during her life as an author of bestselling history books. She also worked as a newspaper reporter.

Her memories do not unfold in chronological order, instead shifting back and forth in time, and back and forth between England and Egypt, where she served as a war correspondent during the Second World War.

In Egypt Claudia lived most intensely, felt most passionately. On a forbidden trip to the front lines she meets Tom, a British tank commander. Claudia's undying love for Tom occupies a central position in the novel.

Claudia also remembers those closest to her — her brother Gordon, a world renowned economist and her lifelong intimate, her daughter Lisa, Lisa's father Jasper, Gordon's wife Sylvia and Laszlo, a Hungarian refugee whom she adopted.

Lively interposes Claudia's recollections, which are often fragmented, with the recollections of those around her. Thus, Claudia remembers the day that Gordon "pushed" her from the vertical cliffs above Charmouth Beach, while Gordon recalls Claudia "slipping" from her perch.

Claudia, a professional (though not academic) historian, made her living off history, which she brought to life in her books. Now, with death fast approaching, she strives to make sense of her collected experiences, to understand the relationship between the past and present elements of her life. Lisa, who stands at an emotional distance from her mother, is remembered as a curious infant and as a questioning adolescent.

Claudia opens the novel by professing her intent to record a "history of the world": "A history of the world. And in the process, my own. The Life and Times of Claudia H. The bit of the 20th century to which I've been shackled, willy-nilly, like it or not. Let me contemplate myself within my context: everything and nothing."

"Moon Tiger" is an exquisitely crafted novel, an eloquent journey through the decades of one woman's life — a frontline encounter with the forces of history.

Courtesy Photo

all new site | log on today

www.middleburycampus.com

WANTED:

distribution manager
copy editor
[BOTH PAID POSITIONS]

to apply or for more information, e-mail campus@middlebury.edu



What do I know about me?

Be informed. Be healthy. Take care of yourself.

For annual checkups, birth control including
emergency contraception, pregnancy testing, and
testing & treatment for sexually transmitted infections.call **1.800.230.PLAN.**The phone will ring in the health center nearest you.
www.ppnne.org

Talk to us in confidence. With confidence.

Funded in part by a federal grant from Title X.

Your Dream: "I want to become a doctor."



Your Reality: "I don't have the required courses for medical school."

The Johns Hopkins Post-Baccalaureate Premedical Program prepares college graduates with strong academic records for acceptance to the best medical schools by giving them the personal attention, the necessary science and math courses, and one-to-one academic advising.

If you or someone you know wants to pursue a career as a doctor, apply by **March 1**.

For more information, visit
www.jhu.edu/postbac or call **410-516-7748**.

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITYPost-Baccalaureate
Premedical Program

Track in a groove

By Ryan Reese

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Lackluster. That is one word that comes to mind when trying to describe the level of competition at this weekend's Wesleyan Cardinal Invitational. After making the trip down to Middletown, Conn., the Panthers were slated to compete against only one other NESCAC foe, Wesleyan University, and a handful of small community colleges. In many of the events, the skilled Middlebury athletes were unchallenged.

Despite the lack of push from their usually staunch opponents, the Panthers remained focused while gearing up for next weekend's Division III New England Championships.

The Middlebury women made short work of the competition throughout the day. One of the most impressive performances came from Makely Lyon '07. While absolutely dominating the 3,000-meter run, Lyon lapped six of the seven other competitors, finished with a time of 11:01.20, and qualified for the New England Championships. When asked to comment about the meet, Lyon said, "Although there was little competition, many of us looked at this as an opportunity to get in another race before the outdoor season starts."

Maryanne Porter '04 also emerged victorious through her efforts in the 600-meter run. With a time of 1:43.07, she outdistanced the field by nearly 10 seconds. Margaret Ray '07 ended up second in the 600-meter run with another nice mark of 1:53.02. The Middlebury women looked poised and set to match up against their NESCAC and New England rivals as this indoor season slowly comes to a close.

The Panther men had a strong day across the board as they picked up first- and second-place finishes in the 800-meter run, the 55-meter hurdles and the men's long jump. Chris Pelliccia '07 and Matt Horesta '06 earned first and second places in the 800-meters. With times of 8.16 and 8.59 respectively, Alex Wellman '07 and Khristoph Becker '06 accomplished the same feat in the 55-m hurdles. Kevin Bright '06 and Neiman Groce '07 also leaped their way to first and second place marks with jumps of 6.19 meters and 6.10 meters respectively.

Jon Erwin '05 provided an interesting side note and storyline for the day. He chose to head to the Invitational at Tufts — alone. He had heard that more competition would be there and hoped to qualify for the Division III Championships. Needing a time of 8:56.2 in the 3,000-meter run, Erwin stepped up to the challenge. Narrowly, with a time of 8:56.1, Erwin found himself eligible for the postseason.

The Panther men and women appear ready to perform well in the postseason meets. With its immediate focus on next week's Division III New England Championships, Middlebury will be working hard in practice as usual while finely tuning every aspect of their racing style. The men will head off to Bowdoin for their meet on Friday and Saturday while the women will travel to M.I.T. on Saturday.

Women's hoops enters playoffs at #7

By Tom McCann
SPORTS EDITOR

This past weekend was not the finest hour for the Middlebury women's basketball program. Coming off of a significant win against Connecticut College last week, hopes were high heading into its match-up with the Jumbos (15-5) at Tufts on Feb. 13. The first half proved to be a close affair with neither team able to jump out to a significant lead. At the break, the Panthers trailed their visitors by a score of 29-24 following a huge three-point shot at the buzzer for the Jumbos. Middlebury was not disheartened and came out in the second half and took its play to another level.

The intensity of the women carried the Panthers back into the game and even to its first lead of the game (47-46) with 10:58 left to play. It did not last long however. Tufts was able to reassert its authority on the game and closed with a dominant 14-4 run as the Panthers ran out of gas in the closing stages. Alexis Hollinger '05 continued her excellent form for Middlebury as she netted a team-high 18 points and grabbed nine boards. Alexis Batten '04 contributed with a huge double-double, scoring 13 points and ripping down 14 rebounds, dominating on both ends of the court. While Middlebury kept it close for most of the game, only 33.8 percent of its shots found the twine, something that will need to improve if success is to be ensured throughout the playoffs.



File Photo/Albert Bitici

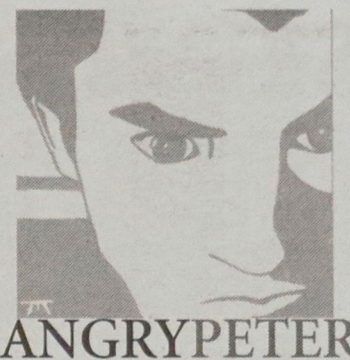
The women's basketball team looks for a second upset win against Wesleyan in the first round of the postseason.

The following day saw Middlebury host its final game of the regular season when the Bates Bearcats rolled into town. In all truth, the Bearcats rolled into Middlebury, rolled over the Panthers basketball team, and then rolled out again. A 12-0 run in the first period saw Bates open up a substantial 28-12 lead with just over 6:30 to play in the half. The lead continued to grow, leaving Middlebury headed to the locker-room nursing a 26-point deficit. Any hope that Middlebury would come storming back into the game after the break proved to be in vain when

Bates embarked on a huge 17-2 run in the early stages of the second half. Middlebury eventually trailed by as many as 45 points before finally falling 80-44 on the day. Sophomore Katie Fehsenfeld led the Panthers with 13 points, the only player to shoot in double figures for the game. Shooting just 3-19 from behind the arc, and 31.6 percent on the day, Middlebury could not have hoped to outscore its visitors. The playoffs are at hand and Middlebury will need to be at its best.

The Middlebury women's basketball team has been given the

seventh seed in the NESCAC Tournament this year, leaving them with a trip to Wesleyan University on Saturday afternoon. The two teams previously locked horns on Feb. 6, with Middlebury defeating Wesleyan 70-57. The playoffs are an entirely different season however, and nothing can be taken for granted. One team will see its year come to an end, while the other will advance to the semi-finals to be played at Bowdoin College. The only thing that remains to be seen is whether or not the Panthers can topple their hosts and extend their season a little longer.



BY PETER YORDAN

Mike Kirkland '04 — you all know Mike, folks, don't you? — thinks my column should be renamed "Bitter Peter" after my last entry lambasted his beloved broomball. He thinks I'm bitter and broke because, unlike him, I neither won a broomball championship nor got paid \$500 dollars to run the league. I'm certainly not bitter, and though I may be broke, it stems from an unfortunate amphetamine habit and has nothing to do with a broomball deficiency. Still, a little hate mail is nice, and of course I bear Mike no ill will for making fun of my team's painful IM soccer defeat this fall.

Mr. Kirkland probably agrees with me, however, in my latest complaint. The self-appointed leader of Middlebury's cheering section, he too has probably noticed the recent decline in spirit at hockey games. Unfortunately, I can't blame Captain Kirkland for the lack of noise in recent games, even if he did make fun of my soccer team. He's still yelling his butt off every game, but no one else seems to be. I missed Middlebury's men's hockey team winning its five consecutive NCAA championships, but I distinctly remember the crazy, wonderful atmosphere of games my freshman year. It seemed like everybody went to hockey games, and everybody knew all the chants. The student stands were packed. To get good seats you had to arrive well before the game started. Walking in during the opening face-off assured you a spot standing in the back of the arena.

There used to be two legitimate groups leading the cheers — one led by Kirkland and Co. stationed behind the goalie, and another less sober and less ... tactful group of would-be frat members in the left corner. Between the two there was always some chant to join in on. A young first-year like me quickly learned the words to timeless classics like "Tiny Bubbles," "There's only One Middlebury" and "Williams, Williams, Williams ... You Suck."

I'll never forget the constant wave of sound and energy inside Kenyon Arena the night Middlebury won the NESCAC Championship, defeating Amherst 4-3 when a young John Dawson '04 scored in overtime. It was simply an amazing scene, and no one there could help but be caught up in it. I can't imagine the same thing happening now. That energy just isn't there anymore.

I would never say students have to support the men's hockey team. Certainly they are no more important, talented or special than any other team or any other student at Middlebury. I just miss the camaraderie that existed with Midd students, who, for whatever reason, came together on Fridays and Saturdays to sing "Cheer Boys Cheer." It was cheering for the sake of cheering — for each other as much as for the players on the ice. For all the legitimate and decried excesses of collegiate spectator sports, that was a sentiment I thought was genuinely good, even noble. I'm not bitter or angry, just a little sad to see it pass away.

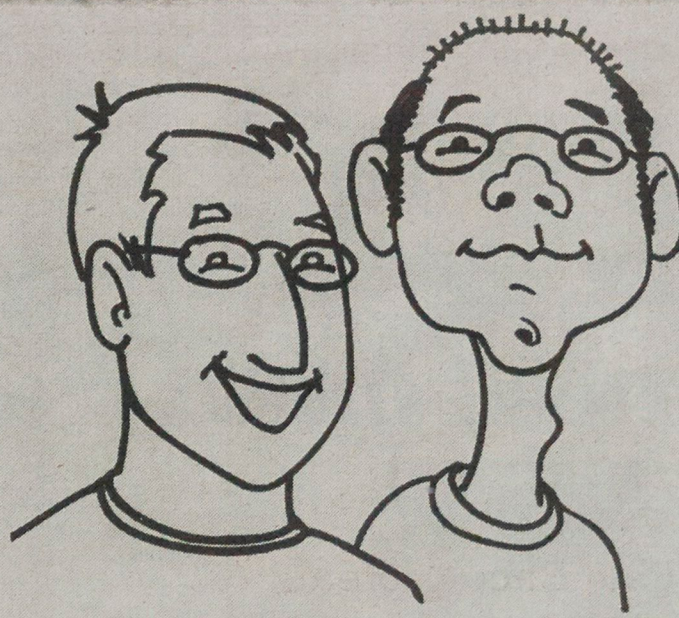
The Middlebury Campus

will hold an informational meeting for all interested in working on the newspaper as writers, designers, photographers and copy editors. **no experience necessary.**

thursday, february 19 at 7 p.m. in the hepburn basement (blue door across the proctor road from the tennis courts)

for more information, e-mail campus@middlebury.edu

Neil & Otto's
pizza



OPEN SUNDAY - THURSDAY 4PM - 1AM
OPEN FRIDAY & SATURDAY 4PM - 2AM

-stuck in the library studying?
-too cold to walk to the Grille?
-not in any condition to get off the couch?
Call Neil & Otto's Pizza today!

Try our famous pizza styx!

Call 388-6774 or 388-6776

We deliver right to your door

VISA/MC gladly accepted

**tax, delivery and toppings extra.*

Skiers place third at Dartmouth Carnival

By Sean Breen
STAFF WRITER

The historical Middlebury carnival winning streak was halted at three as the Middlebury alpine and nordic ski team finished third this past weekend at the 93rd annual Dartmouth Winter Carnival. It marks the first time since 1974-75 that the Big Green has won its winter carnival in consecutive years.

It was the strong performance of the Dartmouth nordic team that edged the victory over the University of Vermont (UVM) and Middlebury.

Dartmouth finished with a combined score of 777, followed by the Catamounts' 729, and then by Middlebury's 713.

Dartmouth led the carnival after the first day almost 30 points ahead of the then-second-place Panthers. The nordic track kicked off at the cross country course at Oak Hill and the alpine race took place at the Dartmouth Skiway in Lyme, N.H.

In the women's Giant Slalom (GS), UVM took the top five spots with Jamie Kingsbury first (1:58.81), Hilary McCloy second (2:01.29), Amy Cochran (2:02.67) third, Jane Lemasurier fourth (2:02.75) and Erin Mascolino in fifth. Jessica Smith '05 came through on top for Middlebury, finishing in 10th place (2:05.11). Behind her, Laura Scripture '04 finished 13th. Scripture was also the top finisher for the Middlebury women in the Slalom event, coming in seventh (1:40.37), less than two seconds off the leader.

On the men's side, UVM had four of the top 10 in the GS, placing fifth through ninth. Still, Middlebury had a strong showing with two skiers in the top 10 and four in the top 15. Peter Phillips '05 finished fourth (1:55.78), a mere three hundredths of a second off the winning pace. Dave Coriell '06 finished tenth (1:56.81) — this was a strong finish for him as his major strength comes in the



File Photo/Albert Bitici

Wearing his varsity soccer sweatshirt, John Rusten '04 barrels down the mountain during practice. The ski team will look for a fourth win this weekend.

Slalom. Right behind Coriell was Eric Rygg '04 (1:57.29). Fred Emich '04 closed out the top 15 for Middlebury, by finishing 14th.

On the Slalom side, the men had an equally impressive showing with two in the top 10 and four in the top 15 again. John Rusten '04 finished seventh (1:36.88), followed by Joshua Transue '06 (1:37.03) in ninth. Coriell capped off a strong carnival with a 13th place finish (1:37.67), and Phillips followed at his heels, finishing 14th. Finally Rygg and Emich finished 20th and 21st respectively.

The Middlebury nordic team fell from its godly high to a more human

level this past weekend. The women were led in the 5K by Kate Newick '04, who finished fifth (15:35.1), less than 10 seconds behind the leader. In 11th came Diana Johnson '05, followed by Kate Whitcomb '04 in 12th. Claire Anderson '06 closed out the top 20, and leaving Middlebury with four skiers in that bracket.

Newick and Johnson were also the leaders in the 15K, finishing eighth and ninth respectively. Whitcomb also had a top-20 showing, finishing in 17th place. Of course while these numbers are impressive, they don't compare with the level of skiing we have witnessed over the past three weeks.

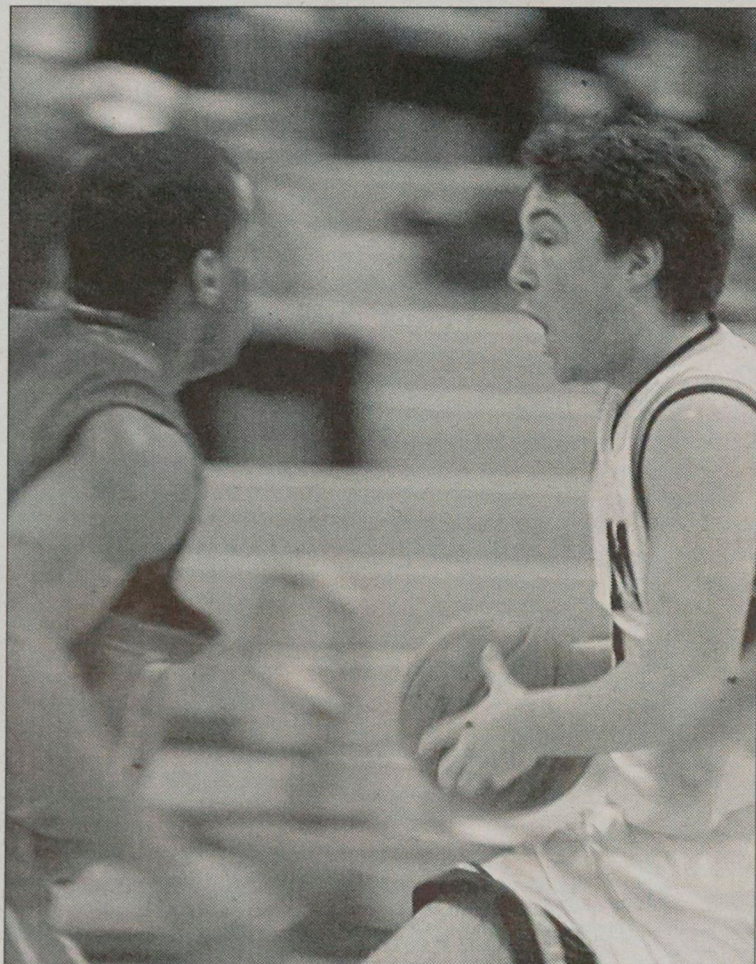
On the men's side Garrot Kuzzy '06 led the way once again, pacing the Panthers with an eighth place finish in the 10K and a strong fourth in the 20K classic. Beau Baldock '07, the team's rookie standout, finished two spots behind Kuzzy in the 20K and claimed 14th in the 10K, behind resurgent team captain Marshall Greene '04, who finished twelve in the 10K. Youngsters Jake Whitcomb '06 and Dan Skold '07 followed each other across the line in the 20K in 11th and 12th place respectively. Whitcomb added a 16th place finish in the 10K while Skold slipped to 23, behind teammate Donovan Dums '06, who grabbed 19th place. Despite

placing five skiers in the top 20 in the 10K, the men couldn't find the extra gear to finish on top.

While Middlebury skiing failed to win again, and the hopes of the undefeated season hinted at last week have vanished, the aspirations for greatness are still present. Even without skiing to the number-one spot at the Dartmouth carnival, Middlebury managed a very strong third-place finish in a hostile environment. As long as the teams keep pushing ahead and keep their eyes set on the next event and ultimately, on what really matters, the NCAA Championship, everything could fall into place.

Men's basketball sneaks into NESCAC playoffs

By Dan Russell
STAFF WRITER



File Photo/Albert Bitici

As the eighth seed in the upcoming NESCAC tournament, the hoops team will need new scorers to step forward for their match-up with Williams.

After a convincing home win against Connecticut College, the Middlebury College men's basketball team has once again fallen on hard times. Traveling to Skidmore, Middlebury jumped out to an early 19-9 lead but saw that lead slip away as Skidmore crawled back in the game to tie it at 35 at the half. The game remained close in the second half, but the Thoroughbreds managed to hold the lead and eventually pull away for a 72-67 win. The Panthers, who were without co-captain and leading scorer Nate Anderson '04, were led by Clark Read '05, who had 16 points on 7-7 shooting, while first-year Bobby Marcoux added 14 and Simon Behan '05 scored 12.

The Panthers' misfortune would continue as their road trip brought them to a NESCAC match-up against Tufts. The Panthers came out cold, shooting only 30 percent from the floor in the first half but were able to keep the game close, trailing only by six at the half, 39-33. The Jumbos then scored the first eight points of the second half to lead by 14, 47-33, and proceeded to extend their lead

to 14, 52-38. The Panthers were able to utilize an 11-4 run to cut the gap to seven points, 56-49, on a jumper by Anderson at 9:16, who had eight points during the spurt. Middlebury was able to pull within seven twice, the second time with only 1:56 remaining on a three-pointer by Adam Sinoway '05 to cut the lead to 68-61. However, the Jumbos would score the next seven points at the free throw line to seal the win, 78-66. Anderson led the team with 13 points and 10 rebounds, while Sinoway also scored 13.

The Panthers then traveled to Maine for their final NESCAC match-up against Bates. Middlebury took an early 9-3 nearly four minutes into the game on a John Donnelly '04 three-pointer, but Bates responded by outscoring Middlebury 41-17 for the remainder of the half to build an 18-point halftime advantage. Middlebury was never able to make a serious run in the game, with Bates leading by at least 14 points for the entire second half. The Bobcats scored 18 points off turnovers and out-rebounded the Panthers 46-27 — including 16-6 on the offensive glass. Anderson led Middlebury with 13 points.

Despite finishing the season with only two league wins, the Panthers were still able to secure a playoff berth in the NESCAC Tournament as Colby, Tufts and Middlebury finished in a seventh-place tie. All the tie-breaking procedures were even, forcing the league to put all three teams' names in a hat and draw two. The Panthers were drawn along with Tufts. Middlebury now has the eighth seed in the NESCAC tournament and will play the number-one team in the country, Williams College, next Saturday in the quarterfinals at Williams. Commenting on the team's play of late, co-captain David Coratti '04 said, "It's been a tough stretch. We didn't play well this weekend, but we got new life with the playoff berth and think we can come out and surprise Williams, who may be looking past us." Behan added, "We haven't really been playing together, and I hope during this week of practice we can just work on ball movement, which has been a weakness for us, and just simply on having fun again."

"I'm confident about the upcoming playoff game. We have a deep bench, and we'll just be focused this week on coming up with a solid game plan," Anderson said.

Guidance for greatness

Terry Aldrich makes a trend of winning

By Peter Jordan
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

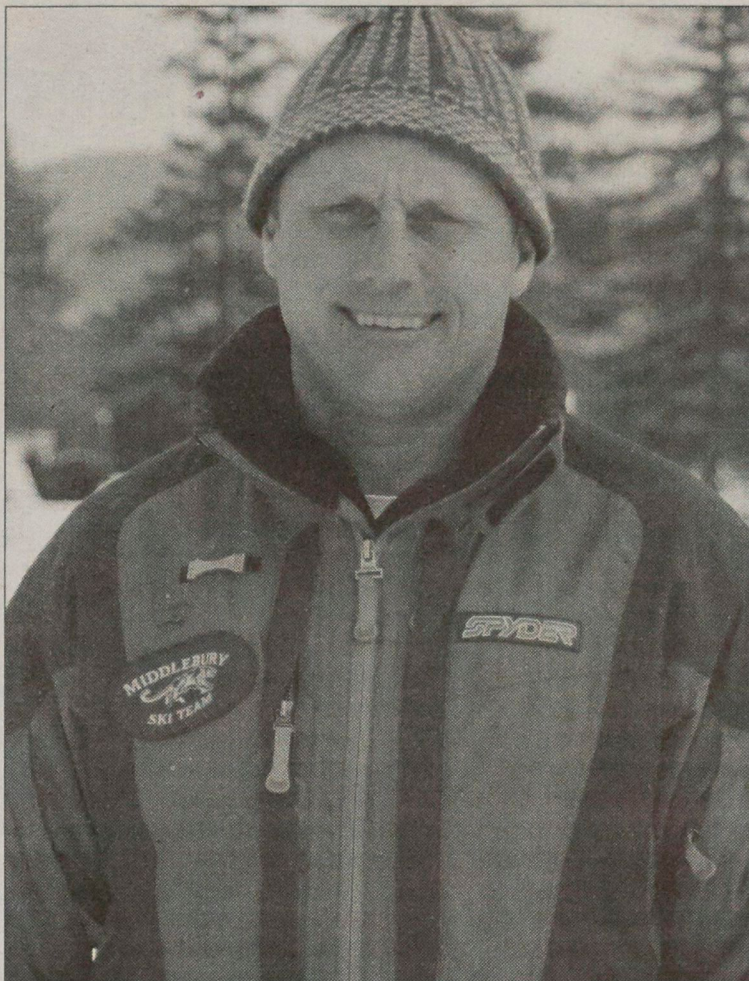
Twenty-nine years is a long time to wait for anything, let alone your first victory. But Terry Aldrich is a patient man, and his long wait made Jan. 23 that much the better. It was on that day when Middlebury's long-suffering nordic ski coach received a call from a reporter while driving home from Colby in the team van. "How does it feel to win?" the reporter asked. Misunderstanding, Aldrich proceeded to talk about his skiers' strong performance in the nordic half of the weekend's events before the man cut him off. "No, I mean the whole carnival."

"It was pretty cool," said Aldrich, thinking back.

Not only did Middlebury win the first carnival in its history that day, but the team went on to win each of the next two weeks, becoming the first team ever to beat the University of Vermont at their own mountain. For Aldrich, who has coached every nordic team since 1975, it was the first time he ever got to see his skiers come out on top. "I said to the team we've left the UVM carnival in second place many times over the years, but this time we're leaving as the champions," said Aldrich.

Although the ski team may never have had a first place finish before this winter, this is hardly coach Aldrich's first sip of success. In his other hat Aldrich is also the school's cross country coach and the head of Middlebury's extraordinarily successful women's running program. His women's cross country team has dominated the national Division III rankings in recent years with three national championships and two second place finishes since 1999.

With the cross country team winning this fall's NCAA championship in convincing fashion and the nordic team performing so well so far, Aldrich is on pace for the most successful year in his long coaching tenure. Up until the ski team's third-place finish at Dartmouth last weekend, an Aldrich-coached team had finished first or second in 12 consecutive races dating back to September. "It motivates everybody to keep training. Everybody is trying to lift their expectations and lift everybody else," said Claire Anderson '06, a member of both the cross-country and Nordic teams. "Terry's been coaching for quite a while. It's really exciting."



Albert Bitici

Before last weekend's carnival, Terry Aldrich had coached teams to a first or second place finish every week since September.

"He's developed a system that works really well for female athletes. He has a very structured program that facilitates our success," said Jess Manzer '05, the number one ranked runner on the women's cross-country team. "He cares so much about his athletes. He gives us room to enjoy the sport but also challenges us."

I think all coaches have their own style," said Aldrich. "I try to be a motivator. I try to have kids perform at their top level because they're motivated." Though Aldrich notes differences in the way he coaches his two sports, his overall philosophy is much the same whether his athletes are wearing running shoes or skis. Though both cross country running and nordic skiing have a strongly individualistic mentality, Aldrich focuses on generating a cohesive team atmosphere. "I really believe the chemistry on both the cross country and ski teams has been enormously good this year," he said.

"He's very into the team," said Anderson. "It's kind of a big family." Manzer echoed the sentiment. "Terry really tries to gear his work

outs and style toward the team. We have a close knit group that really contributes to our success."

Next year will be Aldrich's 30th at Middlebury, and his recent success doesn't show signs of dissipating any time soon. The ski team under the combination of Aldrich and alpine coach Forest Carey '00 looks more energized than it has in years. Even if the squad is not able to challenge western Division I teams for a national championship, it has served notice to UVM and Dartmouth that there is a new podium threat at Carnivals.

The women's cross country team stands in even better shape. Only one senior, Molly Yazwinski, was ranked in the top seven of the team's runners this year. Three of the team's top five finishers in nationals this fall were first-years, Aldrich's "fearless freshmen". A fourth national championship next year would seem less a goal than an expectation.

With such promise on the horizon, Aldrich can expect more "pretty cool" days like Jan. 23 as he starts his fourth decade at the college.

Norwich next for men's hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

goals, 24 on this season and trails only Norwich's Kurtis McLean (29 goals) in scoring among NCAA Division III players this season.

Trinity, with a record of 11-8 before the game against the 19-2 Panthers, would not have been expected to halt the momentum of the Middlebury men. An early goal for the hosts though put Middlebury on the back foot, and it wasn't until the fifth minute of the final period that first-year Darwin Hunt tied the score. However, just two minutes later, Trinity was back in front, and the Panthers were not able to recover again. While the tendency is to look ahead to the playoffs with home-ice advantage already clinched,

the Panthers are anticipating their showdown with the Norwich Cadets with playoff-like intensity. As they have been for much of the season, Norwich is again the top team in Division III hockey according to the latest United States College Hockey Online poll, and presents one of Middlebury's sternest tests. The Cadets are 20-2 overall for the 2003-2004 campaign, and are the defending NCAA Division III Champions.

In all likelihood, anyone who wishes a bid for the 2004 Division III title will have to overcome the Cadets, and Middlebury has a golden opportunity to get a feel for the team's style of play. After all, this Saturday's contest could very well be a harbinger for either a NCAA Division III semifinal or final match-up

in the coming weeks.

While the St. Michael's team that Middlebury hosts on Friday is far less impressive, coming into Friday's showdown in Kenyon Arena with an 8-14-0 tally, Middlebury can ill-afford to take the game for granted.

Another slip-up could have disastrous consequences for the morale of the team, whereas two more wins this weekend could provide the impetus for a successful run at the National Championship.

Middlebury knows that the victor of the game this weekend against Norwich will carry an enormous amount of momentum into the playoffs and will hold a psychological advantage should the teams meet during the playoffs.

SPORTSBRIEFS

BY DAVID FREEDMAN, SPORTS EDITOR

Sports center rechristened



Albert Bitici

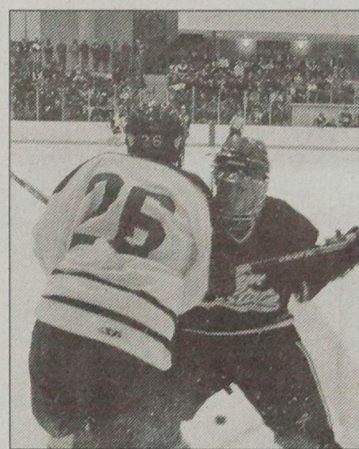
Middlebury's athletics center was officially dedicated on Feb. 14 and named in honor of Milton Peterson '58 and his family, whose three sons also attended the College a generation later. Peterson served for nearly 15 years on the Board of Trustees and retired in 1998 as the board's chairman. At the time of his retirement, Peterson and the College had already decided to dedicate the complex in honor of his family, but it was only last Saturday that college officials felt the time was right to officially name the center that encompasses Nelson Field House, the Bubble, the Fitness Center and Lawson Lounge, the Natatorium and Kenyon Arena. Peterson and his three sons were all members of intercollegiate teams during their years at Middlebury, and the family is proud to be associated with the complex's outstanding facilities.

Swimming takes a break

With every NESCAC swimming and diving team dormant the past weekend to rest for next week's championship meet, Middlebury's men's and women's teams are readying themselves to finish in the top three. The women have a legitimate shot at making a run for first place with their solid depth and consistency. Over the season the Panthers have posted some of the top times in the league. Sarah Groff '04 put up the second-best times in the 500- and 1000-free, Taylor Bolz '04 was second in the 50-breast, while Barbara Van der Veer '07 earned the fourth best in three events, the 50- and 100-free and 50-fly. Martha Goebel '04 and Kellianne Egan '04 posted the third fastest times in the 100 IM and 1,650-free respectively. The Panthers also have two of the fastest relay teams in the conference in the 200-free and 800-free, the former consisting of Van der Veer, Goebel, Teague Douglas '06 and Lizzy DeWitt '04 and the latter of DeWitt, Mollie Reed '06, Douglas and Groff. The men have posted some outstanding times as well, led by first-year Rob Collier who has the best time in the 100 IM, the third best in both the 200-back and 100-fly, as well as a top-four time in the 400 IM. Diver Tris Arcsott '06 has stepped up his performance this year and has already automatically qualified for the national meet for the one meter board. David Hawkins '05 has the second fastest time in the 50-fly for the conference and Tim Lux '07 put up the second fastest in the 200-breast. The men's team also has the top relay squad for the 800-free relay with Collier, Karl Whittington '04, Adam Rahal '05 and Jamie Lamere '06.

Men's hockey wins home ice

An overtime loss by Bowdoin College to Salem State University late Friday night secured the Panthers as the #1 seed in the men's NESCAC ice hockey championship. The Panthers will begin quarterfinal play on Feb. 28 in Chip Kenyon Arena against a team yet to be determined. Middlebury earned the rights to the top seed in the eight-team tournament despite a conference loss to Trinity College the following Saturday afternoon. The Panthers may not necessarily win the regular season outright, but a 3-2 overtime win against Bowdoin in Kenyon on Jan. 16 gave Middlebury the tiebreaker against the Polar Bears in case their point totals are equal at the end of conference games. The men's team will enjoy the comforts of home-ice advantage throughout the tournament, which will undoubtedly assist the team in trying to win the NESCAC and secure an automatic bid to the NCAA championship.



Spring sports start workouts

Almost every spring sport began practice or tryouts Sunday with fitness tests, fielding drills and team meetings. Over 250 athletes headed to the Peterson Family Athletics Complex to attend the nine spring sports' first official gatherings. As a consequence of the snow, most teams headed inside the Bubble or Nelson Field House to begin preparation for the upcoming season. Middlebury's men's and women's lacrosse teams are seeking to build on last year's success and win the national championships that eluded both of them in last year's final games. Men's tennis will attempt to surpass last year's historical success and win the NESCAC and advance past the national semifinals. The women's side also looks to make the NCAA tournament for its second appearance ever. Baseball and softball also enjoyed unprecedented play last year and will be utilizing these early months of indoor practice as best they can. Meanwhile, the track-and-field squads will contain the biggest teams in college history, as the men's team carries 51 athletes and the women's 47.

campusports

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2004

IM b-ball wraps up season

By Jack Donaldson
STAFF WRITER

Ryan Armstrong '06 sat in front of his barren locker in the baseball locker room, recently emptied of its fall tenants and ready for a new batch of varsity athletes. He was flanked on either side by two of his teammates, Tyler Bak '06 and Andrew Pavoni '06.

There were other baseball players behind them, jovially unpacking their bags of equipment into the lockers, joking with each other and listening to music. The mood was light, the anticipation of a new season blinding most other concerns.

Everyone in the room had a smile on his face. Everyone, that is, except Armstrong, Bak and Pavoni. They had just lost the championship game for the intramural basketball crown to an underdog squad made up almost entirely of freshman. The neon lights from the ceiling turned Armstrong's face yellow, almost sickly. "I don't know what to make of it," he said. "We had our chance and we just couldn't do it. It was a crazy couple of games."

Armstrong's comments sum up the basketball playoffs this year. In the same vein as the stellar MLB playoffs and the NFL playoff games for the history books, the IM basketball games were full of exciting upsets.

The highly touted "And 1 Mix Tape" team fronted by Chris Fraser '05 and Russ Budnick '05, notorious for large white T-shirts and tall shooters, steamrolled through the season with an invincible swagger before falling in the semifinals to the freshman group led by Scott Secor '07.

"We could have beat them," said a contemplative Fraser. "It just wasn't our day."

On the other side of the bracket, Armstrong's team, the "Bus Drivers" (so named because, as Armstrong noted, "they take everyone to school"), also had an easy run through the playoffs, making it to the final round well rested and focused.

However, the freshman team matched up very nicely with the Bus Drivers. In particular, the strong slasher Coleman Hutzler '06, who was a premier part of the Bus Drivers' backcourt and frontcourt games, was stymied by the big, football-bred bodies the freshman team sent out on the court. In the end, the freshmen came out on top, by increasing their lead to 12 with a couple minutes left in the second half, which is where the score stood for the rest of the afternoon.

"I know [most people, critics] will say, 'Oh, we were heavily favored going in,'" said a defeated Armstrong in the locker room, wiping sweat from his brow. "But, that's why we play the games."

Women's hockey masters Maine

Big wins against Bowdoin, Colby propel team toward postseason

By Mike Kennedy
STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury women's hockey team made the ever-difficult trip to Maine this past weekend to face off against Colby and Bowdoin and returned home with two victories. The sweep moved the Panthers into a first-place tie with Bowdoin atop the NESCAC standings heading into the last weekend of the regular season. If the Panthers defeat Williams, and Bowdoin knocks off both Trinity and Wesleyan, the two teams will share the regular-season title. Should this happen, the deadlock to decide home ice advantage in the NESCAC playoffs would be decided by a coin flip. Middlebury is the defending NESCAC champion. On the national scene, the Panthers (18-3) remained in second place in this week's United States Collegiate Hockey Online Poll.

At Colby, Middlebury scored a single goal in each period to secure a 3-0 win over the White Mules. As they have done all season long, the group of Panther first-years contributed to the victory, as both Abby Kurtz-Phelan and Shannon Tarrant scored in the game. The final tally came from another likely source, the team's leading goal scorer Lorna Gifis '05, who notched her 19th of the season. Senior netminder Kati Madouros turned aside all 12 Colby shots to earn her ninth win of the year.

With the Colby game in the books, the Panthers could finally focus on Bowdoin, who defeated Middlebury in the first game of the year last November. The Polar Bears were still unbeaten in NESCAC play and a win would all but clinch their right to host the NESCAC tournament on March 6 and 7. A Panther victory would keep their hopes at the top seed alive. Middlebury got on the board first, as Tarrant scored early in the second period after a scoreless first.



File Photo/Vlad Lodoaba

The Panthers seized a share of first place in NESCAC with two wins this weekend. Next up is archrival Williams.

ment on March 6 and 7. A Panther victory would keep their hopes at the top seed alive. Middlebury got on the board first, as Tarrant scored early in the second period after a scoreless first.

Bowdoin would answer back only 20 seconds later, and the teams entered the final frame knotted at one. In the third, the teams once again traded goals, and it looked like the game was headed for overtime. But with just 52 seconds remaining, Middlebury's duo of Emily Quizon '06 and Gifis, both among the leaders in NESCAC scoring, connected

for the game winner. This time it was Quizon who found the back of the net. Gifis was credited with the assist.

Kate Kogut '06 and the rest of the Panther defense made the lead hold up, with Kogut finishing the day with 25 saves in all. Panther Captain Jean Butler '04 noticed a big difference in her team from the last time the two teams had met. "We came out pretty nervous the first time we played Bowdoin, but this time we played to win and with confidence, and obviously the result turned in our favor," she said.

Having successfully accomplished what they needed to in Maine, the Panthers will now concentrate on closing out the regular season with a win against Williams, which will not be a simple task. The Ephs, now coached by former Middlebury men's hockey assistant coach Neil Sinclair, sit in third place in the NESCAC standings. "Williams is a good team and we cannot look beyond that game and to the playoffs. We cannot afford to take any steps back this late in the season," said Butler. Game time is set for 7 p.m. at Kenyon Arena.



File Photo/Vlad Lodoaba

Andrew Helming '04 and the Panthers look to regroup for their upcoming game against Norwich after losing 2-1 to rival Trinity.

Panthers tossed in Hartford

Men claim #1 seed in tourney

By Andreas Apostolatos
STAFF WRITER

Despite a disappointing 2-1 defeat to league rival Trinity on Valentine's Day, the Middlebury men's hockey team has clinched the 2003-2004 NESCAC regular season title and will have home-ice advantage throughout the NESCAC tournament. While two games remain for the Panthers before the postseason begins, an evening affair against St. Michael's on Feb. 20 and their highly anticipated matinee with Norwich the following day, Middlebury mathematically won the regular season title when second-place Bowdoin lost in overtime to Salem State last Friday.

Before the Panthers had their season-high 10-game winning streak snapped by a 2-1 defeat at Trinity, Middlebury cruised to an 8-1 romping of Skidmore on Feb. 10. The

goal-fest began with a pair of first-period goals from Kevin Cooper '04, the first of them coming inside the first three minutes. The second period was no more favorable for the visitors as Middlebury found the net four more times. In the third period, John Dawson '04 grabbed his second of the night as Middlebury ran out eventual 8-1 winners.

Feb. 13 proved to be very unlucky for Wesleyan as it was handed a 7-1 routing at the hands of the in-form Panthers. Cooper opened the scoring for the second game in succession before Dawson and Brian Phinney '04 added two more goals in the opening stanza. The Panthers would go on to score three more in the second period, before Patrick Nugent '05 wrapped up the win with the only goal in the third. Assistant captain Cooper now has 88 career

SEE NORWICH, PAGE 27